



THAT...



...IS NOT JUST  
AN ABERRATION.



WIZARD.



I COULD DODGE, BUT THEN  
HE'D SPREAD THE FLAMES  
TO HIT ME, AND IF I DON'T  
COUNTER THE HEAT...



A WIZARD WITH A  
LOT OF POWER... NOT  
ALL OF IT HIS...

...BUT HE'S  
JUST AS WEAK  
TO THIS SWORD  
AS THE REST.



A SHAME SWORDS ARE  
CLOSE RANGE WEAPONS!

MAYBE HE'S GOT THIS?



MY OPENING WILL BE WHEN HE SEES THIS ISN'T WORKING AND SWITCHES SPELLS. OF COURSE, I MUST BE PREPARED FOR THE POSSIBILITY HE'LL DEVOTE ONLY ONE HAND TO SOMETHING NEW, AND THE OTHER TO KEEPING THIS FIRE GOING.



HE IS A WIZARD, AND POSSIBLY A LONG-LIVED ABERRATION. HE WON'T JUST HAVE FIRE!



HE'S STOPPING FIRE?!

HOW?! NOTHING BEATS FIRE!

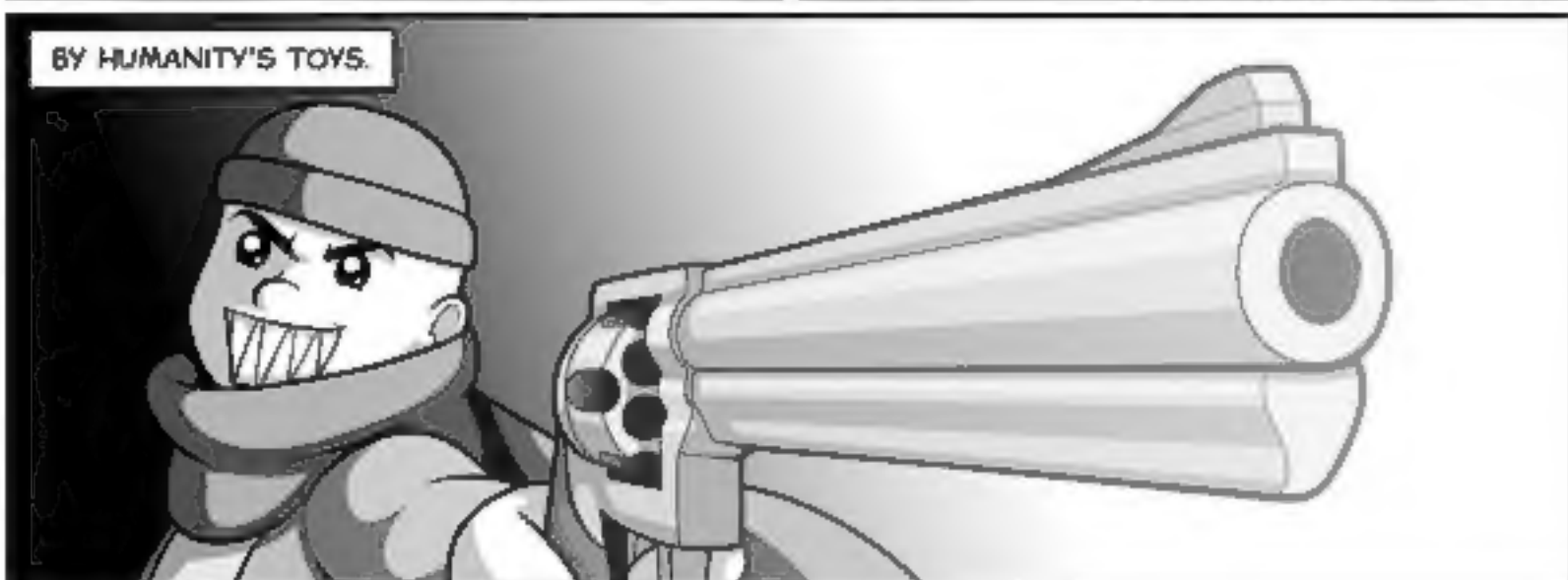


FANCY MAGIC...

FIRE AND NOISE...



ALL OUTDONE...

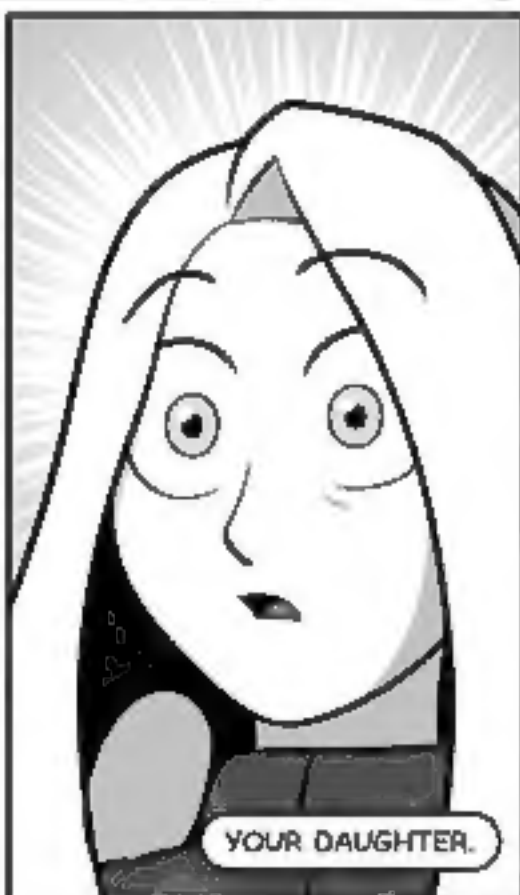


BY HUMANITY'S TOYS.

**BOOM**









I don't know if I will remember this. I can't be certain of how much of anything I will remember, but I will try.

Breaking immortal law connected me to every other immortal on the planet. This connection is so the rest know what I did, why I did it, and for them to send energy to force my reset.

I could not prevent any of these things, but I could add something to it.

I've cast a spell no mortal could learn with a range of several miles. It seeks out and "cures" aberrations, killing them...

...and I have forced every other immortal on earth to enter the physical plane, and cast the same spell...

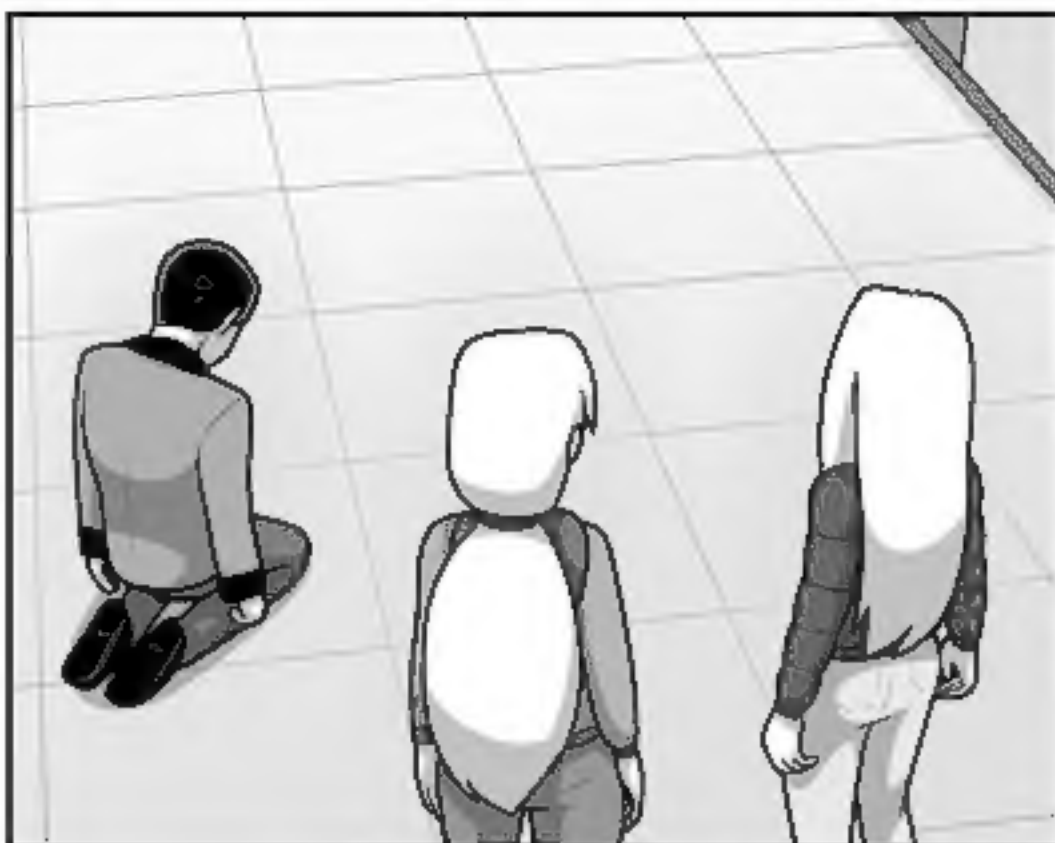
my own power, and any available ambient magic, making it possible for even the weakest immortals.

A few aberrations cannot be found this way, or will be out of range...

but I'm taking the vast majority of them with me.

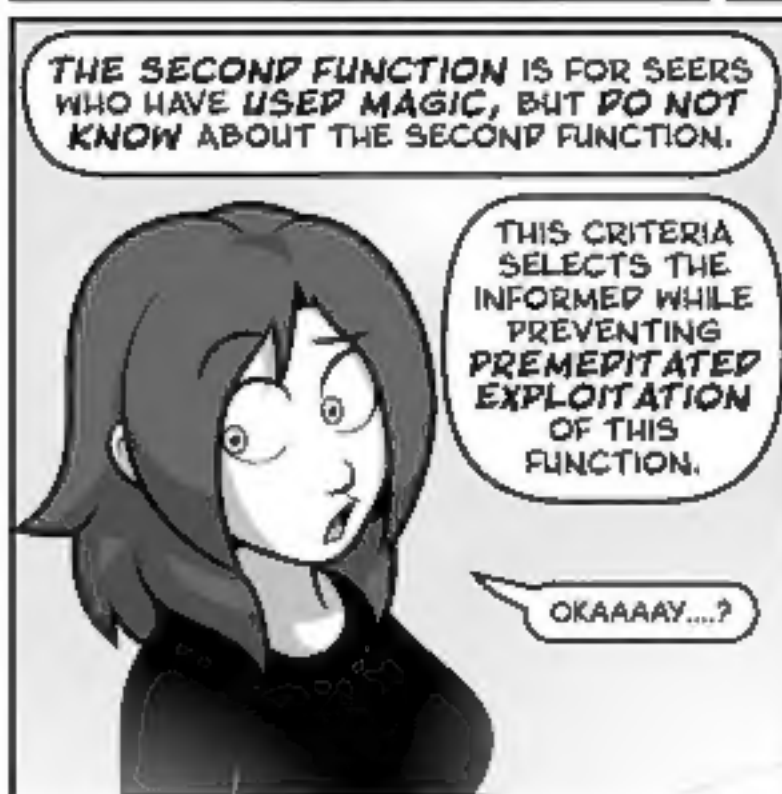
My family is as safe as I can make them.

I pray I will still love them...











ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE SEERS, THEN?



ARTHUR?! MY DAD'S REPLACEMENT AS HEAD OF PARANORMAL INVESTIGATION?!



THAT IS CORRECT. SEERS SEE, AND RESIST, MAGIC, AND ARE NATURAL WAND MAKERS.

AND HERE I BELIEVED MYSELF A WIZARD WITH A QUIRK.

THAT IS TECHNICALLY CORRECT.



MY MUM'S A MONSTER HUNTER!



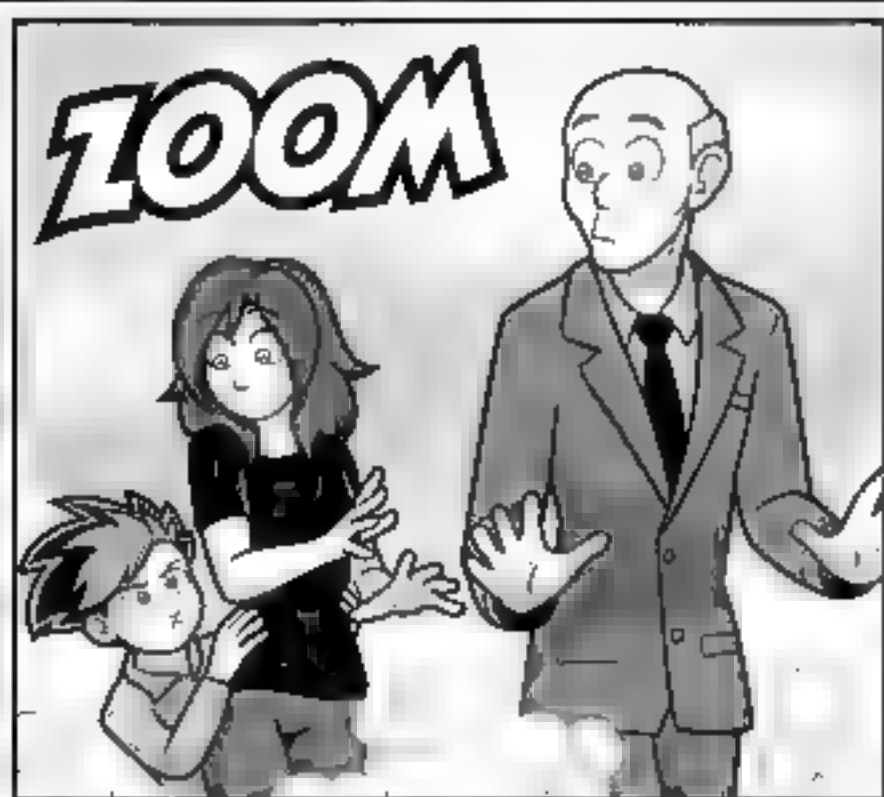
!-IF ANY OF YOU HURT ME, SHE'LL GET YOU!

SHE'LL CUT YOU UP!



A BRITISH KID? HE'S A SEER WHO HAS USED MAGIC?

I DO NOT BELIEVE US TO BE IN DANGER. CHILD. BUT



**ZOOM**



UM, HE SHOULD BE OKAY MY DAD'S WORKED WITH HIM.

HE'S WRINKLY!

WRINKLES ARE NOT A PROPER BASIS ON WHICH TO JUDGE A PERSON.



YOUR FATHER'S WORKED WITH.. WAIT TEDD?



UH... YES.

I'M COMPLICATED. CAN WE FOCUS?

I THOUGHT EDWARD HAD A SON

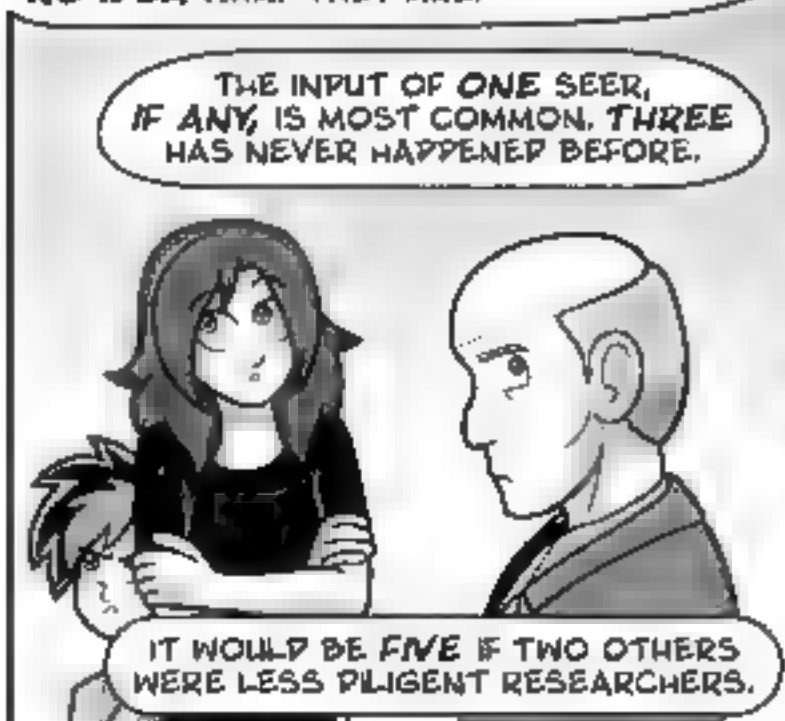


INDEED YOU THREE, TEDD, ARTHUR, AND VAN, ARE TO HELP DECIDE THE SEVERITY OF MAGIC'S CHANGE.

JUST US THREE?

SEERS ARE RARE. IF MAGIC HASN'T CHANGED RECENTLY, SEERS WHO HAVE USED MAGIC ARE EVEN MORE RARE.

MOST PEOPLE NEVER SEE MAGIC USED, AND MOST WIZARDS, SEERS INCLUDED, HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE.



THE INPUT OF ONE SEER, IF ANY, IS MOST COMMON. THREE HAS NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE.

IT WOULD BE FIVE IF TWO OTHERS WERE LESS DILIGENT RESEARCHERS.



MAKES SENSE. THERE ARE A LOT MORE PEOPLE THAN IN THE PAST, RIGHT?

AND "THE SEVERITY" OF THE CHANGE?

MAGIC HAS BECOME TOO WELL KNOWN. IT MUST BE DECIDED IF THE RULES WILL SEVERELY CHANGE TO KEEP IT HIDDEN, OR IF ONLY MINIMAL CHANGES WILL BE MADE TO ACCOMMODATE ITS REVEAL.



MINIMUM... THERE DOESN'T HAVE TO BE A BIG RULES CHANGE?!



THERE DOES NOT. SEVERE CHANGES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN CHOSEN BEFORE, HOWEVER, OR THIS CONVERSATION WOULD NOT BE HAPPENING.



MINIMUM CHANGES WOULD MEAN THE END OF THIS CYCLE OF CHANGE, A CYCLE WHICH HAS PERSISTED SINCE THE DAWN OF MAN.

OH

FORGIVE ME. BUT WHO ARE YOU? ARE WE... SPEAKING TO MAGIC ITSELF?



YES. AND NO.

WE ARE ONE. I AM MANY. WE ARE NONE.

THE NATURE OF WHAT YOU SPEAK TO IS BEYOND CORPOREAL COMPREHENSION...



JUST AS A COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING OF YOUR NATURE IS BEYOND THE COMPREHENSION OF WHAT YOU SPEAK TO.

FOR THIS REASON, YOUR PERSPECTIVE IS DESIRED BEFORE A DECISION IS MADE.

I VOTE MINIMUM CHANGES!

ME TOO!



I, HOWEVER, DO NOT

I ASSUME THIS IS NOT A DEMOCRACY?



IT IS NOT. LOGIC SHALL DECIDE.

AND YOU SHALL HAVE IT



GIVEN HOW MANY ARE AWARE OF MAGIC, AND THE SCIENTISTS AND RESEARCHERS MAKING SERIOUS EFFORTS TO UNDERSTAND IT

WE ARE IN REAL DANGER OF HOW TO OBTAIN AND USE MAGIC BECOMING COMMON KNOWLEDGE

THIS WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC

MANY WOULD LEARN DANGEROUS AND HORRIFIC SPELLS, AND EVEN AMONG THOSE WHO WOULD MEAN WELL.

IT WOULD BE AKIN TO HANDING EVERY MAN WOMAN AND CHILD ON EARTH A LOADED WEAPON. IN SOME CASES, A TIME BOMB WOULD BE MORE APT

I... I'VE SEEN WHAT CAN HAPPEN.

IF ANY CONSIDERATION AT ALL IS BEING HAD FOR THE WELLBEING OF HUMANITY, MAGIC *MUST* BE SEVERELY CHANGED. IT *MUST* BE KEPT SECRET

EXCEPT IT CAN'T BE KEPT SECRET

ALMOST EVERYONE'S GOT A CAMERA ON THEM NOW. INFORMATION CAN BE SHARED AROUND THE WORLD IN AN INSTANT

YOU CAN TRY HIDING MAGIC BY CHANGING IT, BUT IF EVERY SEER IS GOING TO KNOW HOW THE NEW SYSTEM WORKS ANYWAY?

A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE WILL KNOW HOW MAGIC WORKS AFTER THE CHANGE

MAGIC IS JUST GOING TO BE BACK HERE WITH ANOTHER GROUP OF SEERS IN A FEW MONTHS, IF THAT

SO LONG AS EVERY SEER KNOWS WHY IT HAS CHANGED, IT WILL BE KEPT SECRET ENOUGH.



I'LL  
TELL!

I'LL TELL  
MY MUM! SHE  
NEEDS IT!



THAT WOULD HARDLY  
DESTABILIZE A NEW SYSTEM.  
MONSTERS CAN BE DEALT  
WITH BY OTHER MEANS  
IN ANY CASE

AM I CORRECT IN  
ASSUMING SEERS WILL KNOW  
WHY MAGIC CHANGED?

YES. SHOULD MAGIC SEVERELY CHANGE,  
THE VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF HUMANS  
THAT ARE SEERS WILL KNOW.



PERCENTAGE ..

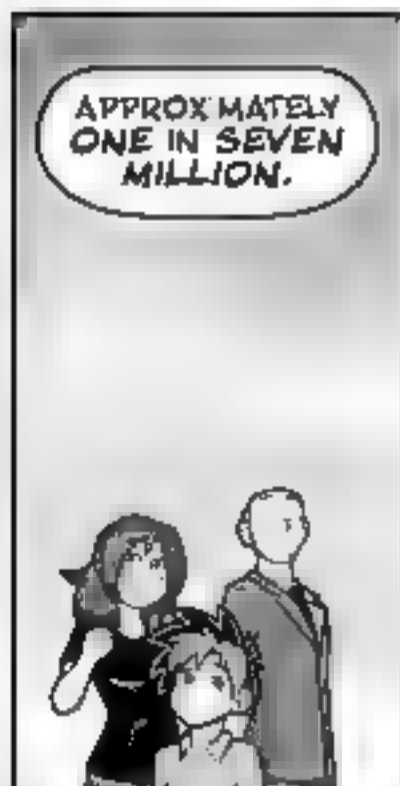
THE AVERAGE  
NUMBER OF SEERS  
CONSULTED IS LESS  
THAN ONE.. THIS  
TIME IT COULD'VE  
BEEN FIVE ..

THAT'S IT!



**MAGIC!**

WHAT  
PERCENTAGE  
OF HUMANS  
ARE SEERS?!



APPROXIMATELY  
ONE IN SEVEN  
MILLION.



ONE IN... ONE IN  
SEVEN MILLION PEOPLE  
ARE SEERS?

CORRECT.



THERE ARE OVER  
SEVEN BILLION PEOPLE  
ON EARTH!

IT HAS  
GOTTEN  
CROWDED,  
YES.

IF MAGIC SEVERELY CHANGES, THAT'S OVER A THOUSAND PEOPLE WHO'LL KNOW THE NEW RULES! WHO'LL BE ABLE TO MAKE WANDS AND TEACH IT TO OTHER PEOPLE!

A VERY SMALL PERCENTAGE OF HUMANS.

F-FORGIVE ME BUT .. YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND TEDD IS CORRECT! IN THIS INFORMATION AGE IT WOULD ONLY TAKE ONE SEER DOING SOMETHING STUPID ENOUGH TO EXPOSE MAGIC.

ONE FOOL IN A HANDFUL OF CHOSEN PEOPLE, THAT CAN BE AVOIDED WITH CAREFUL SELECTION, BUT IN A THOUSAND...

SEERS ARE NOT CHOSEN. IT IS ESSENTIALLY GENETIC.

THEY'RE...

GENETIC?

CHOSEN BY BLOOD. A DYNASTY..

THERE ARE FACTORS PREVENTING THE BIRTH OF A SEER FROM BEING SOMETHING ONE CAN PLAN, BUT ESSENTIALLY, YES.

YOU NOW AGREE THAT MAGIC CANNOT BE HIDDEN?

THOUGH I AM LOATHE TO ADMIT IT YES.

TRUSTING OUR FATE TO A THOUSAND PEOPLE CHOSEN BY BLOOD? I AM AN AMERICAN

WEREN'T YOU HAPPY ABOUT THIS NOT BEING A DEMOCRACY?

YOU THREE AGREE, THEN, THAT MAGIC SHOULD UNDERGO MINIMAL CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE ITS REVEAL?

YES!

BETTER THE ENEMY WE KNOW YES.

THIS LOGIC...

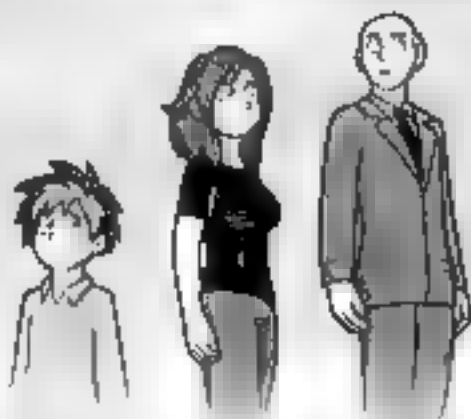
IS INSUFFICIENT.



WHAT? BUT

SEERS WILL BE  
MADE AWARE OF THE  
RISK OF LETTING  
MAGIC BE KNOWN,  
AS HAS BEEN DONE  
THROUGHOUT THE  
AGE OF MAN.

THOUGH SOME SEERS *HAVE*  
ACTED FOOLISHLY BEFORE,  
HISTORY ALSO TEACHES THAT  
PEOPLE DOUBT THINGS THEY  
HAVE NOT SEEN FIRST HAND, AND  
MAGIC SHOULD REMAIN HIDDEN  
FOR GENERATIONS.



THINGS ARE  
DIFFERENT NOW!

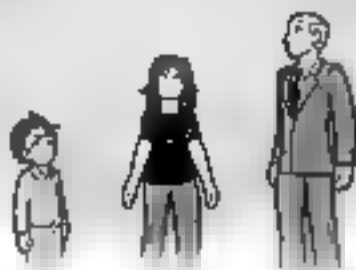
PEOPLE DO NOT SEEM VERY  
DIFFERENT. YOUR TECHNOLOGY  
HAS ADVANCED, BUT...

TECHNOLOGY IS—DO YOU  
NOT UNDERSTAND HOW WE  
GOT TO THIS POINT?!

MAGIC'S SO  
EXPOSED RIGHT  
NOW BECAUSE OF  
CAMERAS AND  
MODERN  
COMMUNICATION!

PEOPLE ALL  
AROUND THE  
WORLD CAN  
SHARE  
INCIDENTS IN  
AN INSTANT!

WE GOT TO THIS POINT BECAUSE  
OF PANDORA CHAOS RAVEN, AND  
SHE'S BEEN FORCIBLY RESET AFTER  
BREAKING IMMORTAL LAW.



THE MOST SIGNIFICANT THREAT TO  
MAGIC BEING REVEALED AGAIN WAS  
ALREADY BEEN DEALT WITH.



PANDORA. ? WHAT  
HAPPENED TO ?



SHE STOPPED AN  
ABERRATION FROM  
KILLING HER SON.



SHE THEN USED THE  
CONNECTION CREATED BY THE  
FORCED RESET TO KILL OVER  
NINETY-NINE PERCENT  
OF ALL ABERRATIONS,  
CONSEQUENTLY CAUSING  
EVERY IMMORTAL ON EARTH  
TO REVEAL THEMSELVES  
IN A SHOW OF LIGHT VISIBLE  
FROM KILOMETERS AWAY.

EVEN WITHOUT  
PREVIOUS INCIDENTS  
EXPOSING MAGIC,  
THIS EVENT WOULD  
HAVE BEEN ENOUGH  
TO TRIGGER OUR  
MEETING.

MY GOD.

SHE..

SHE'S  
DEAD..



SHE WILL BE  
BACK, BUT TOO  
WEAK TO POSE  
THE SAME  
THREAT AS~



STOP CALLING  
HER A THREAT!

SHE DIDN'T  
KNOW MAGIC  
WOULD CHANGE  
IF IT GOT TOO  
EXPOSED!

SHE  
WANTED  
TO FIX  
IT!

AND SHE  
WON'T BE  
BACK! SHE'S  
GOING TO BE  
A DIFFERENT  
PERSON!



NOT NEARLY AS  
DIFFERENT AS AN  
IMMORTAL WOULD  
NORMALLY BE.



WH...  
WHAT?

SHE HAS DONE SOMETHING  
IMMORTALS CAN DO, BUT MOST  
NEVER CONSIDER TRYING. SHE  
WILL BE DIFFERENT, AND WILL HAVE  
FORGOTTEN MANY THINGS...



BUT SHE  
WILL STILL TRULY  
KNOW YOU, TEDD  
VERRES, AND ANY-  
ONE ELSE WHO  
WAS IMPORTANT  
TO HER.



YOU WILL  
STILL BE  
FAMILY.



YOU'RE RIGHT! PEOPLE HAVEN'T CHANGED THAT MUCH, AND THAT MEANS THERE'S A WHOLE LOT OF PEOPLE OUT THERE LOOKING FOR VALIDATION, FAME AND FORTUNE!

THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE KNOWN THE SAME WAY MAGIC WANTS SPELLS TO BE CAST, EXCEPT THEY OBVIOUSLY DON'T WANT TO BE HIDDEN!

THEY WANT TO BE SEEN! TO BE PRAISED, ADMIRER, AND/OR FEARED!

YOU'VE UNDOUBTEDLY SEEN THIS. MAGIC USERS FLAUNTING THEIR TALENTS, AND TELLING PEOPLE THINGS THEY SHOULDN'T!

FOOLISH! BUT NOT A GLOBAL MATTER, AND SUPERSTITION AND FEAR HELPED KEEP KNOWLEDGE OF MAGIC FROM SPREADING IN SUCH CASES. CORRECT?

IT IS LIKELY THAT HELPED MOTIVATE THE ANGRY MOBS, YES.

BUT THAT!

WAS THE OLDEN TIMES!

OH GOOD LORD

A MASSIVE, WORLDWIDE WEB OF GLOBAL INFORMATION HAS ENTANGLED THE WORLD!

PEOPLE IN BEIJING CAN READ ABOUT A MAGICAL INCIDENT IN MOPERVILLE IN SECONDS, AND HAVE VIDEO OF IT IN MINUTES!

AND YES! THERE WILL BE DOUBT, BUT! THERE ARE PLENTY WHO WILL BELIEVE IT! THOSE INFORMED ENOUGH TO KNOW, THOSE WHO CAN TELL IT HASN'T BEEN FAKED, HOPERS QUICK TO BELIEVE...

AND THOSE WHO TRY TO LEARN MAGIC BY THE METHODS SHARED, BE IT TO PROVE OR DISPROVE, WILL FIND THAT IT'S REAL!

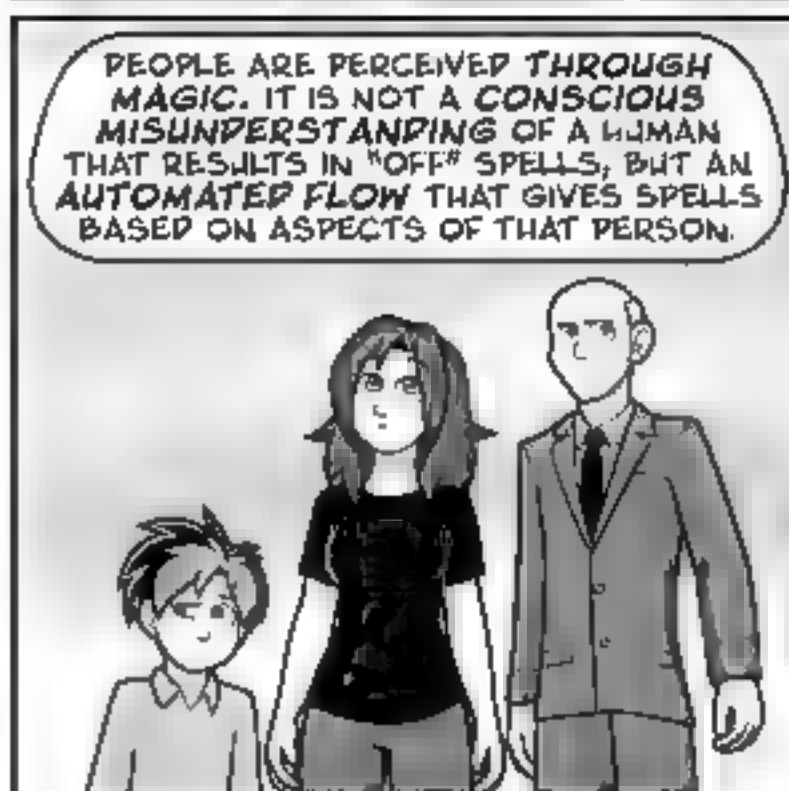
THE TEMPTATION TO BE THE ONE TO SHARE THAT INFORMATION, TO SHOW KNOWLEDGE AND POWER, AND TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED AND PRAISED, WILL BE OVERWHELMING!


AND THE EASE OF DOING SO UNLIKE ANYTHING IN PREVIOUS HISTORY!

HUMANITY HAS NOT CHANGED MUCH, BUT WITH THE POWER OF TECHNOLOGY

WE CAN SCREW THINGS UP LIKE NEVER BEFORE!







THE WIND.  
SHIFTS.


THE  
DECISION.  
HAS BEEN  
MADE




MAGIC'S CHANGE HAS...



IT'S  
DONE?!

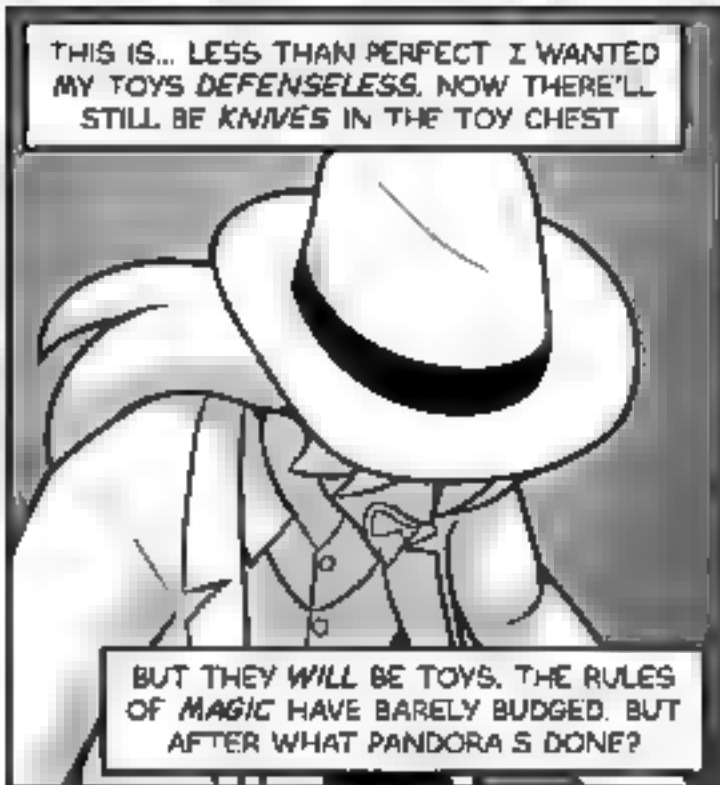


HOW?! HOW THE HELL DID  
THAT FRUITCAKE WHELP  
KEEP HIS COMPOSURE LONG  
ENOUGH TO CONVINCE  
MAGIC OF ANYTHING?!




THERE MUST HAVE BEEN  
SEERS BEYOND TEDD AND  
ARTHUR. ONE OF THEM  
CONVINCED MAGIC!

DAMMIT! ARE  
SEERS NOT AS RARE  
AS I THOUGHT?!



THIS IS... LESS THAN PERFECT I WANTED  
MY TOYS DEFENSELESS. NOW THERE'LL  
STILL BE KNIVES IN THE TOY CHEST

BUT THEY WILL BE TOYS. THE RULES  
OF MAGIC HAVE BARELY BUDGED. BUT  
AFTER WHAT PANDORA S DONE?



IMMORTAL LAW  
WILL CHANGE

AND WE WILL BE  
DEMIGODS AMONG  
MEN ONCE MORE.

YOUR TASK IS COMPLETE.  
THE CHANGES ARE DONE.

THAT WAS FAST

WHAT ARE  
THESE "MINIMAL  
CHANGES"?

NONE, AND MANY. TAKEN  
AT ITS MOST TECHNICAL,  
HOW MAGIC WORKS HAS  
NOT CHANGED AT ALL.

WHAT HAS  
CHANGED IS  
HOW MUCH  
MAGIC IS  
BEING KEPT  
IN CHECK.

THAT SOUNDS  
OMINOUS. ARE YOU  
BEING OMINOUS?

THAT IS  
SUBJECTIVE.

WITH MAGIC IN LIMITED USE AND HIDDEN, IT WAS  
POSSIBLE TO ENHANCE THE VARIOUS MAGIC  
RESISTANCES OF HUMANS, AND TO KEEP  
CERTAIN FORMS OF MAGIC FROM  
BEING POSSIBLE.

IF MAGIC  
ENTERS  
COMMON  
USAGE, THIS  
INTERFERENCE  
BECOMES  
INFEASIBLE.

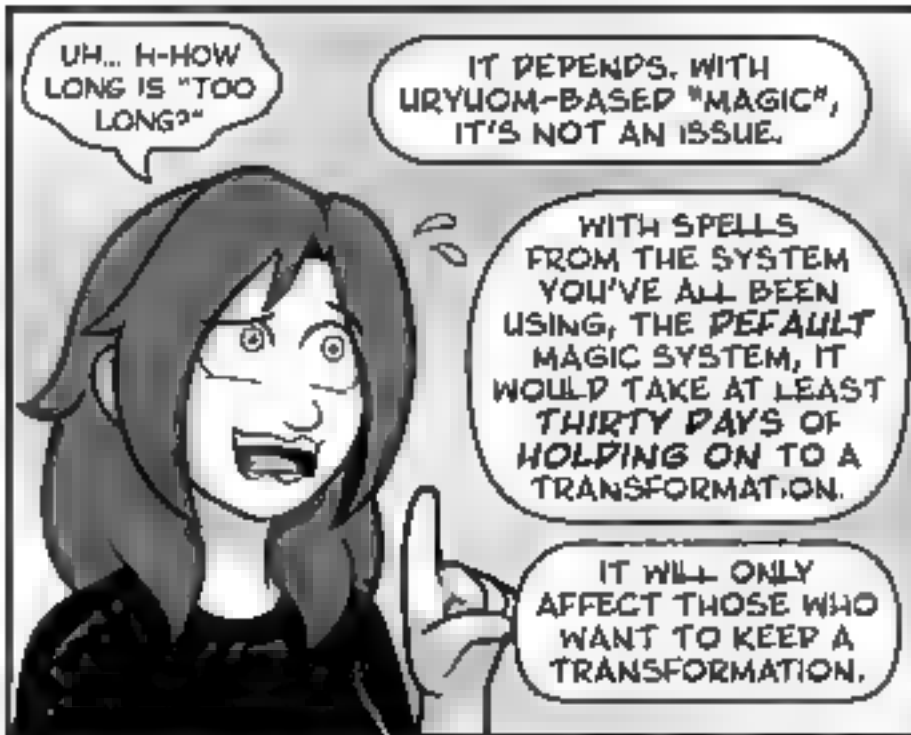
AN AVERAGE PERSON BARELY  
HAD ANY RESISTANCE TO MAGIC  
AT ALL, AND YOU'RE TELLING  
US THAT WAS WITH HELP?

THIS ALSO MEANS  
TRANSFORMATION  
ENCHANTMENTS  
CAN BECOME  
PERMANENT IF LEFT  
FOR TOO LONG.

AS FOR THE  
OTHER FORMS OF  
MAGIC, PREVIOUS  
SYSTEMS OF MAGIC  
ARE NOW ACCESSIBLE  
IF ONE KNOWS HOW TO  
DO SO, THOUGH NO  
HUMAN ALIVE SHOULD  
KNOW HOW.

CORRECT. ONLY SOME ARE  
BORN WITH ANY EFFECTIVE  
RESISTANCE. MOST WILL NEED  
TO BUILD UP A RESISTANCE  
OVER TIME WITH EXPOSURE.

THIS DOES  
MEAN SOME  
MAGICAL OBJECTS  
AND WANDS  
RENDERED INERT  
BY PREVIOUS  
CHANGES WILL  
WORK AGAIN.



UH... H-HOW LONG IS "TOO LONG?"

IT DEPENDS. WITH URYUOM-BASED "MAGIC", IT'S NOT AN ISSUE.

WITH SPELLS FROM THE SYSTEM YOU'VE ALL BEEN USING, THE **DEFAULT** MAGIC SYSTEM, IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST **THIRTY DAYS** OF **HOLDING ON** TO A TRANSFORMATION.

IT WILL ONLY AFFECT THOSE WHO WANT TO KEEP A TRANSFORMATION.



OH THANK GOD.

BUT WITH OLDER SYSTEMS OF MAGIC BEING ACCESSIBLE.

THE CURRENT SYSTEM HAS ENCHANTMENTS THAT END ON THEIR OWN AFTER A TIME IF NOT WANTED BY THE ENCHANTER

ENCHANTMENT RESISTANCE IS NOT NEEDED TO END THEM. BUT MAKES THEM END FASTER.

Intended Enchantment Duration 12 Hours



No Resistance  
12 Hours



Resistance  
<12 Hours

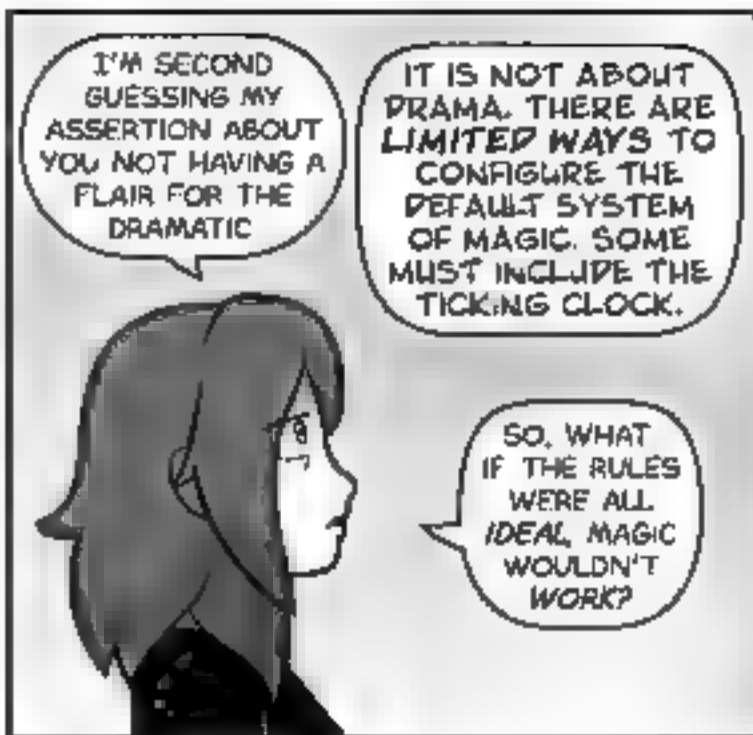


Likes the magic  
 $\infty$

SOME OLDER SYSTEMS HAVE ENCHANTMENTS THAT BECOME PERMANENT IF NOT UNDONE BEFORE A DEADLINE.



NO NEW SPELLS LEARNED NATURALLY WILL WORK THAT WAY, BUT IF ONE FIGURES OUT HOW TO USE **OLD MAGIC**, THEIR ENCHANTMENTS COULD COME WITH A TICKING CLOCK.



I'M SECOND GUESSING MY ASSERTION ABOUT YOU NOT HAVING A FLAIR FOR THE DRAMATIC

IT IS NOT ABOUT DRAMA. THERE ARE **LIMITED WAYS** TO CONFIGURE THE **DEFAULT** SYSTEM OF MAGIC. SOME MUST INCLUDE THE TICKING CLOCK.

SO, WHAT IF THE RULES WERE ALL **IDEAL** MAGIC WOULDN'T WORK?



HUMAN SPELLS WOULD BECOME **RANDOM**, THE AGITATED ENERGIES FORMING **MASSIVE STORMS OF CHAOS MAGIC**.

THAT SOUNDS BAD

YES. PEOPLE WOULD STOP USING MAGIC.





OLD MAGIC, LOWERED DEFENSES... WHAT HAVE WE DONE?



TOLD NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH AND GOT SOMETHING INEVITABLE TO HAPPEN NOW INSTEAD OF LATER WHEN IT WOULD'VE BEEN WORSE?



WHAT? IF IT DIDN'T HAPPEN THIS TIME, IT WOULD'VE BEEN NEXT TIME RIGHT?

AND THIS WAY, WE'VE GOT THE GOOD TYPE OF ENCHANTMENTS AS THE FAULT INSTEAD OF MAYBE GETTING TICKING CLOCKS, RIGHT?



I SUPPOSE YOU ARE CORRECT IT'S JUST THE BURDEN OF HAVING BEEN INVOLVED IN THE DECISION TO...

PHHBBBTT-!



I BEG YOUR PARDON?

WE DID A THING THAT NEEDED DOING! IF YOU DID WHAT YOU SHOULD'VE DONE, GUILT'S A WASTE OF TIME



FOCUS ON WHAT YOU NEED TO DO NEXT!



I GUESS BUILDING UP PEOPLE'S MAGIC DEFENSES WAS ALWAYS A THING THAT I WAS GOING TO NEED TO FIGURE OUT ANYWAY IT'S NOT LIKE PEOPLE HAD GOOD MAGIC RESISTANCE BEFORE

YOU NEED TO FIGURE OUT?

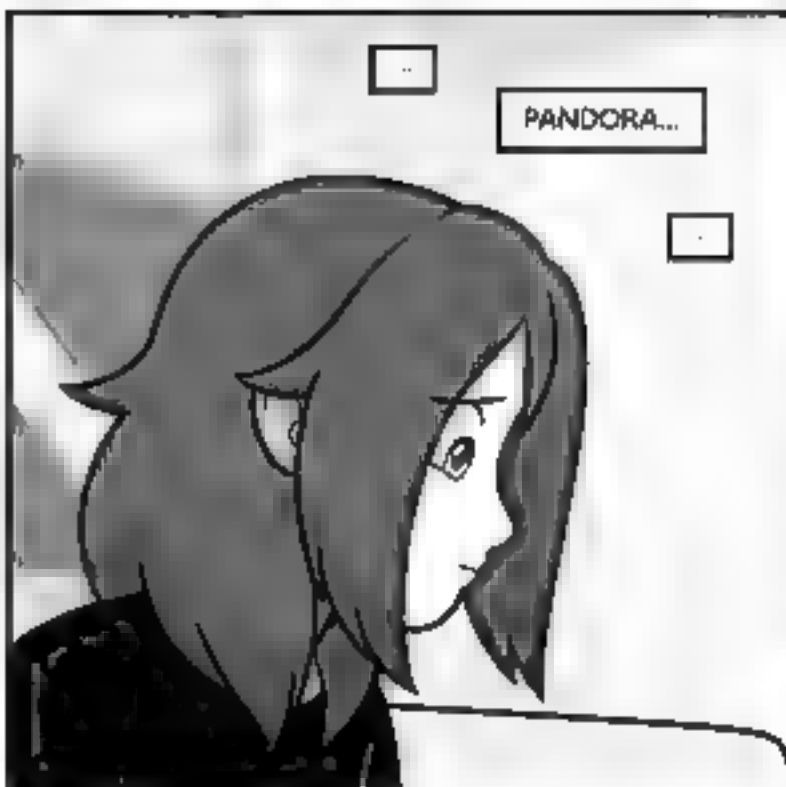
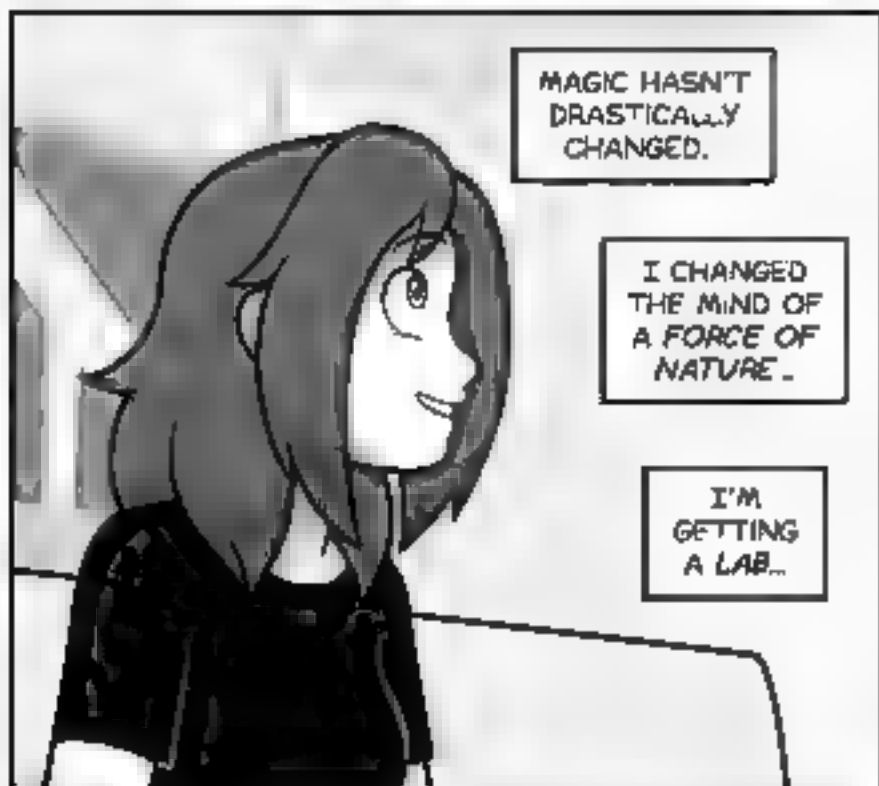
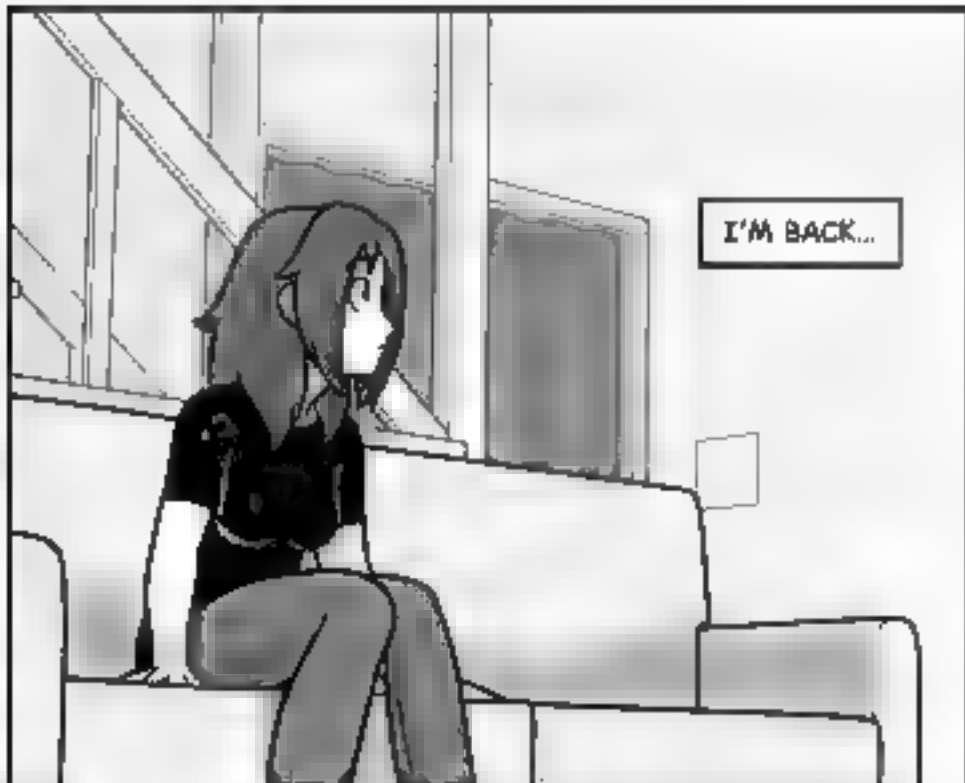


OH, UM, BEFORE I KNEW MAGIC COULD CHANGE LIKE THIS, I WAS SORTA STUDYING MAGIC AND TRYING TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO MAKE IT SAFE FOR EVERYONE TO HAVE?

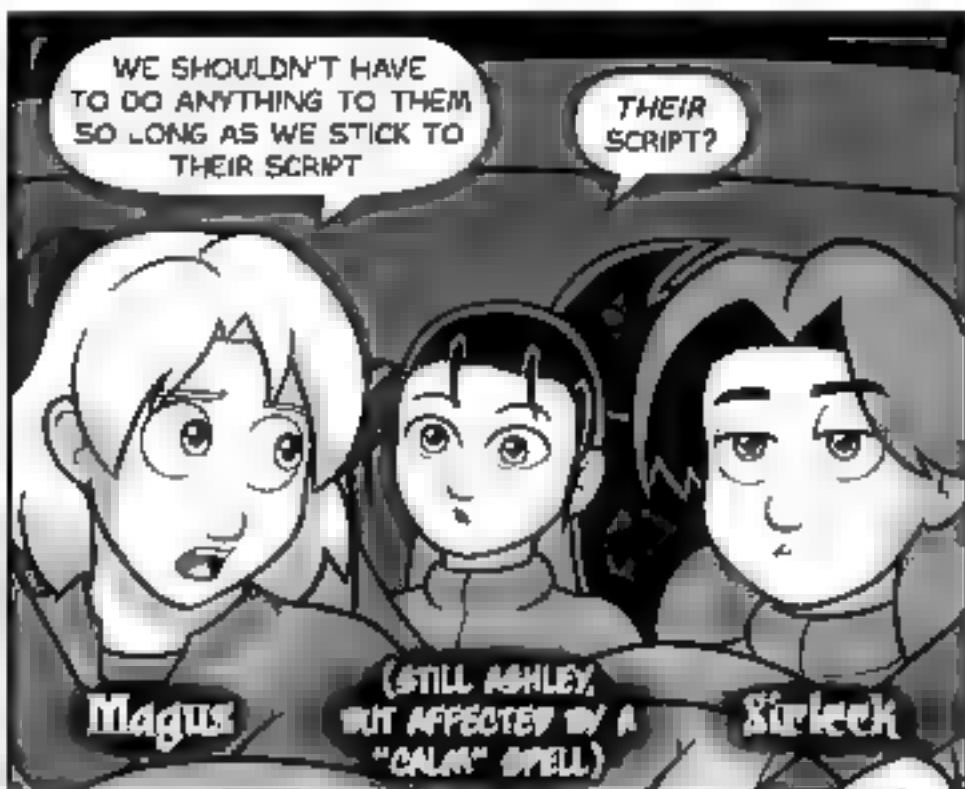


WHEN THIS IS OVER, PREPARE YOUR NOTES.

SHOULD I DEEM YOU COMPETENT, AND IF I CAN AUTHORIZE IT, YOU SHALL CONTINUE YOUR RESEARCH WITH A LAB AND FUNDING.



Now quite far from Maperv e...





THERE IT IS. THE MOST BORING, YET INVITING. BUILDING EVER IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE. THEY'VE EVEN LEFT THE LIGHTS ON FOR US.

WE'LL BE ENTERING THROUGH THE CONVENIENT BACK WINDOW THEY LEAVE UNLOCKED ON THE FIRST FLOOR.



ASHLEY FOR YOUR OWN SAFETY I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DROP THE CALM SPELL.

'KAY



ARE YOU INSANE?!

I'M NOT TAKING HER ANYWHERE NEAR THE BLOODY DEWITCHERY DIAMOND WITH AN ENCHANTMENT ON HER!



BUT ASHLEY LISTEN TO ME. THE ONLY WAY THIS ENDS WELL FOR EVERYONE IS IF I REACH THAT DIAMOND AND USE IT TO GIVE MYSELF MY OWN BODY AGAIN.

WHATEVER YOU THINK OF ME, HOWEVER SCARY YOU MIGHT FIND THIS. YOU NEED TO FOLLOW ALONG AND STAY CALM, OKAY?

YEAH, SURE



HERE WE GO...



YOU OKAY?

I-I'M FINE! SUPER FINE! L-LET'S GO ROB THAT BANK!

WE'RE NOT

WHATEVER WE'RE DOING LET'S DO IT QUICKLY



CALM BLUE  
OCEAN PUPPIES  
PEOPLE TURNING  
INTO PUPPIES

I KNOW WE HAVE TIME TO  
SEARCH, BUT THIS ISN'T LIKE WHEN  
I BRIBED THAT GUARD. HOW ARE  
WE GOING TO FIND THE DAMN--

IT'S OVER THERE.  
NEAR THE BACK

AND  
YOU KNOW  
THIS...  
HOW?

ELLEN WAS CREATED BY THE DEWITCHERY  
DIAMOND SHE MIGHT BE ENTIRELY SEPARATE  
FROM IT NOW, BUT HER MAGIC ENERGY HAS A  
SIMILAR FEEL TO IT I JUST COMPARED HER  
ENERGY TO WHAT'S AROUND JS.

MAKES AS MUCH SENSE AS  
ANYTHING TO DO WITH MAGIC.

SOMETHING  
IS STRANGE  
HOWEVER.

HOW  
SO?

THESE ARTIFACTS ARE  
GIVING OFF A STRONGER  
MAGIC VIBE THAN I'D EXPECT  
FOR WHAT THIS PLACE IS.

AREN'T YOU  
YEARS OUT OF  
PRACTICE ON THE  
PHYSICAL PLANE  
AND FROM  
ANOTHER  
UNIVERSE?

I SUPPOSE BUT...  
THIS IS SUPPOSED TO BE  
A MIX OF USELESS AND  
INERT ARTIFACTS. BUT  
I'M NOT CERTAIN ANY  
OF THEM ARE

I THINK WE SHOULDN'T PUSH OUR  
LUCK WITH OUR SEARCH TIME GET ON  
WITH YOUR REBIRTH ALREADY

CATBOYS. CATGIRLS...  
BIGOTS TURNING  
INTO WHAT THEY'RE  
BIGOTED AGAINST...

THIS WAS EASIER  
TO LOGIC MY WAY  
THROUGH WHILE  
MAGICALLY CALM!

MAYBE HE'D CAST IT  
AGAIN NOW THAT HE  
KNOWS WHERE THE...

HUH?

THE  
PARKING  
LOT IS  
EMPTY?

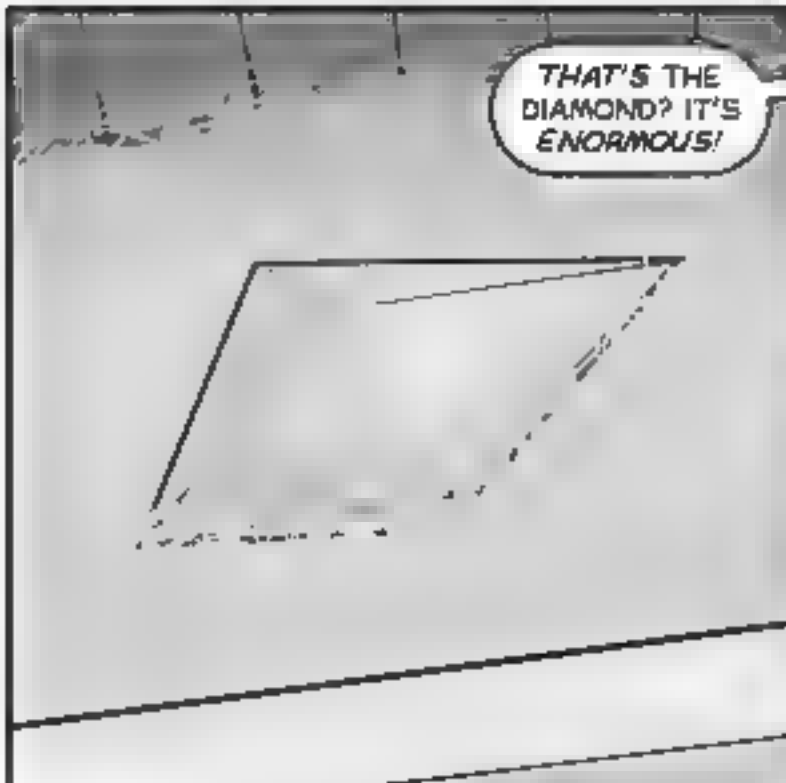
ISN'T THERE  
SUPPOSED TO BE  
A GUARD HERE?

COME TO THINK OF IT  
THIS PLACE IS SUPPOSED TO  
TEMPT THIEVES, RIGHT?

SO WHY  
ARE ALL THE  
LIGHTS ON?

IT'S EASIER TO SEARCH WITH  
THEM ON BUT LIGHTS IMPLY  
SOMEONE'S USING A ROOM. IT  
WOULD SCARE OFF THIEVES.

SO... SHOULDN'T  
ALL THE LIGHTS BE  
OFF EXCEPT FOR A  
SMALL PART OF THE  
GROUND FLOOR?



THAT'S THE DIAMOND? IT'S ENORMOUS!



AND GREEN SHOULD'N'T IT BE "THE DEWITCHERY EMERALD"?

TECHNICALLY, IT'S A CRYSTAL FORMATION AROUND A DENSE WOODEN CORE

NOT THAT I THINK THE WIZARD WHO ENCHANTED IT KNEW THAT



SO IT'S NOT ABSURDLY VALUABLE THEN.



YOU SHOULD STAND BACK. I'M MODIFYING ITS EFFECT BUT ELLIOT AND I COULD STILL BE THROWN AWAY FROM IT, AND IT'S LIKELY TO SHATTER.



YOU'RE BREAKING IT?

IT'S WHAT THAT IMMORTAL TOLD ME TO EXPECT



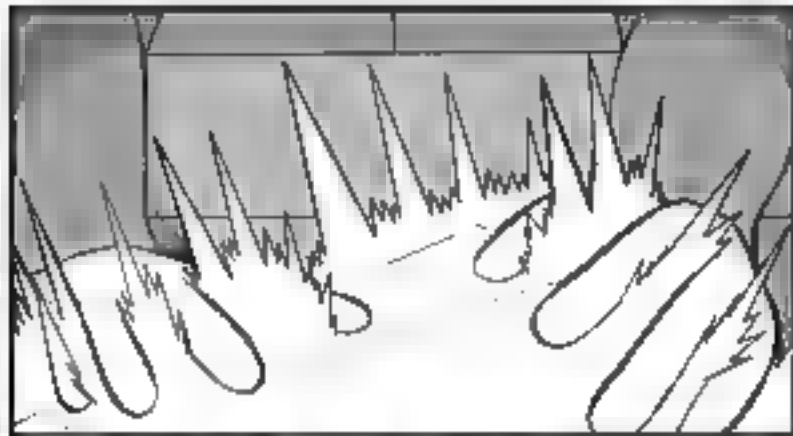
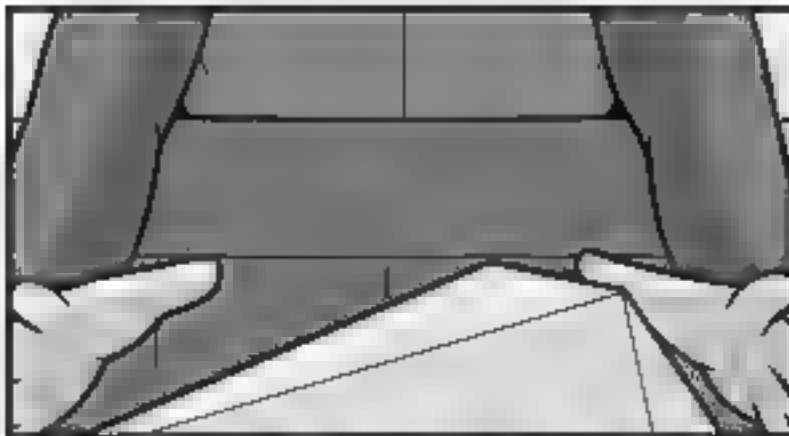
UM, H-HAVE YOU NOTICED...

YOU TOO, ASHLEY STAY BACK THINGS. AND, WELL, ELLIOT AND I MIGHT GO FLYING



AND NOW

IT'S FINALLY TIME...





ELLIOT!



AND NOW YOU ARE  
MINE, MAGUS!

THE PERFECT,  
POWERFUL HOST THAT  
NO ONE WILL MISS!

WHILE YOU ARE  
DAZED, I...



WHAT  
THE HELL?!  
I CAN'T...

WHY  
CAN'T  
I...



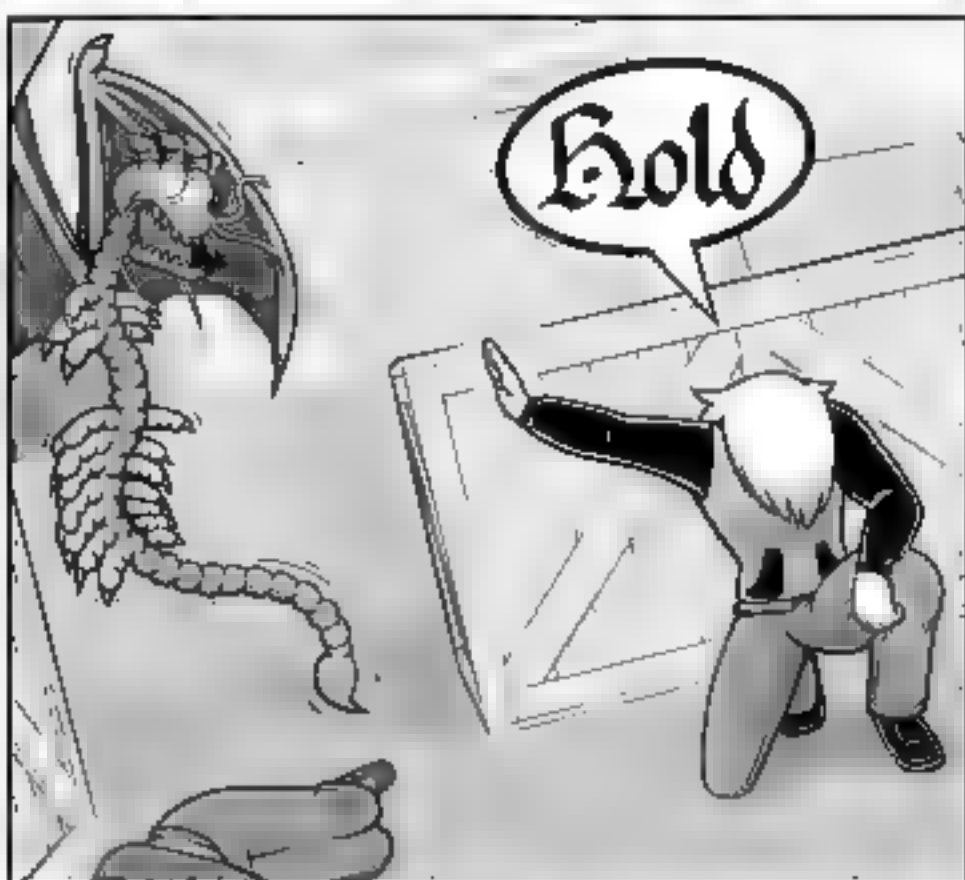
YOU WILL LEAVE...



...WHEN I KICK YOU OUT MYSELF!

WHAT?!





EEEEEEEEEEEEEEK!



NOT ONCE DID I ASK  
YOU WHO YOU PLANNED TO  
POSSESS AFTER ELLEN.



SHOULD'VE BEEN  
A RED FLAG

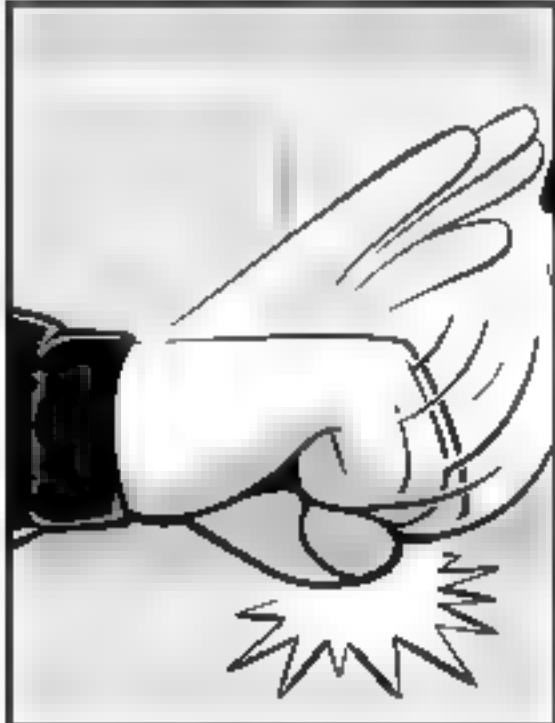


CRASH



WWHOOSH

BOOMFWISH



SHATTER





SIRLECK  
WAS A LIFE  
DESTROYING,  
LITERAL  
MONSTER.



I HATED HIM. I  
HATED EVERYTHING  
ABOUT HIM.

I PLANNED  
TO KILL HIM  
FROM THE DAY  
I MET HIM.

BUT



HE WAS THE  
ONLY ONE I  
COULD TALK TO  
FOR MONTHS.

HE WAS  
LIKE A FRIEND  
TO ME



HOW  
MESSED UP  
IS THAT?







"FIX" HER?

ELLEN HAS BEEN STUCK IN A FORM THAT ISN'T WHO SHE WHO HE IS BECAUSE OF ME I KNOW HOW THAT.

I JUST TALKED TO HER ABOUT THIS! SHE LIKES BEING A WOMAN!

I MIGHT NEVER BE ABLE TO MAKE UP FOR EVERYTHING I'VE PUT HIM THROUGH. BUT I CAN GIVE HIM HIS REAL BODY BACK

DOES HE

YOU THE PERSON HE'S COPIED FROM, WERE WILLING TO TRAVEL A HUNDRED MILES AND SNEAK INTO A GOVERNMENT FACILITY JUST TO BE A MAN AGAIN FASTER THAN YOU WOULD HAVE OTHERWISE

AS A RESULT ELLEN GETS CREATED. AND WHAT DOES EVERYONE DO?

RAILROAD HIM INTO STAYING A WOMAN BECAUSE HE WAS THE DUPLICATE BECAUSE HE HAD TO BE DIFFERENT BECAUSE THERE COULDN'T BE TWO ELLIOTS.

I DIDN'T NEED TO AMPLIFY YOUR FEELINGS TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

HE WAS PUSHED INTO ADOPTING A GENDER IDENTITY NOT HIS OWN TO FIT AN IDENTITY YOU'D CREATED FOR YOUR TEMPORARY CONVENIENCE, AND TO KEEP MAGIC A SECRET

PRESSURED TO BE ANYONE BUT YOU FOR NEARLY A YEAR WITH THE ONLY OPTIONS HE KNEW TO BECOME MALE TEMPORARY ONES THAT COULD EASILY BE DISPELLED WITHOUT WARNING.

...HAVING TO BE TRANSFORMED REGULARLY IF HE WANTED TO BE CONSISTENTLY MALE...

...ALWAYS KNOWING IN THE BACK OF HIS MIND WHAT HIS DEFAULT FORM HAD BECOME?

YEAH I BET HE SAID HE LIKES IT

HE'S ACCEPTED IT AS HIS ONLY OPTION.



PROTECTING? IT'S  
A LITTLE BETTER  
TO WAIT OUT THE  
AFTERAFFECTS.  
BUT

THIS FORM  
FELT RIGHT..

...FOR FIGHTING A  
MISOGYNIST!

ALSO IT FLIES

WHAT?! I DON'T HATE WOMEN! MEN ARE  
JUST NATURALLY STRONGER PHYSICALLY!

MAYBE ON AVERAGE,  
BUT SOME WOMEN  
ARE STRONGER THAN  
MOST MEN EVEN  
WITHOUT MAGIC!

AND THEY COULD BE EVEN  
STRONGER WITH DEFAULT MALE  
FORMS! MAGIC STRENGTH  
BOOSTS ARE RELATIVE TO ONE'S  
PHYSICAL FORM, AS ARE ANY  
NUMBER OF COMBAT SPELLS!

IF THE ONLY ISSUE  
IS STRENGTH, CAN'T  
YOU JUST MAKE DEFAULT  
PHYSICAL FORMS  
STRONGER WITHOUT  
MAKING THEM MALE?

OO

NO.

WHY NOT?!

REASONS!

REASONS?!

THERE'S GOT TO  
BE SOME REASON  
WE DON'T DO IT  
THAT WAY!

ARE YOU  
KIDDING  
ME?!



YOU WANT TO TRANSFORM ELLEN, AND THE BEST YOU CAN DO IS "REASONS"?!



THAT'S SEPARATE! I EXPLAINED THAT!

AND IT'S WHAT WE'VE BEEN DOING FOR CENTURIES! IF YOU WANT TO DO STUFF THAT REQUIRES A LOT OF PHYSICAL STRENGTH, BE A MAN!

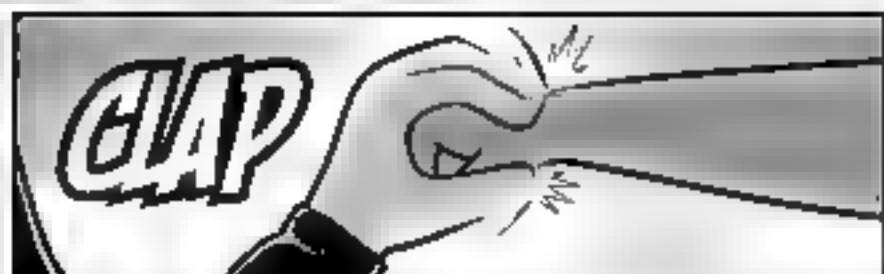
WHOOSH



WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY OF YOUR WORLD'S HANG UPS ABOUT HOMOSEXUALITY AND STUFF FOR CENTURIES. EITHER! YOU'RE A BUNCH OF WEIRD PRIDES!

WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH WHOOSH

THAT'S... GREAT! DOESN'T.. MAKE YOUR WORLD'S.. VIEWS ON.. GENDER ROLES.. OKAY!



I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU TRANSFORM ELLEN WITHOUT EVEN TALKING TO HER FIRST!



THAT'S WHAT I WAS TRYING TO DO! I WAS GOING TO WAKE HIM UP!

YOU... WHAT?!



WHY DID YOU THINK I SAID "I'D RATHER NOT DO IT THIS WAY"?

BECAUSE YOU WERE GOING TO TRANSFORM HER WITHOUT ASKING BECAUSE YOU WERE IN A HURRY!

DAMMIT I CAN SEE THAT



RIGHT... OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T HAVE LEARNED THIS IN HEALTH CLASS, WOULD YOU?

THE RULE OF THUMB WHEN SOMEONE'S FALLEN ASLEEP AFTER EXPOSURE TO MAGIC (THAT SN'T A SLEEP SPELL) IS TO LET THEM SLEEP IT OFF. IT CAN PREVENT HEADACHES AND NAUSEA.



THAT'S WHY I FELT BAD ABOUT WAKING HIM UP EARLY.



OH, WELL... I'M PRETTY SURE ELLEN WOULD RATHER RISK THAT THAN NOT AT LEAST GET A CHANCE TO TALK TO YOU.

BUT YOU'RE NOT TRANSFORMING HER WITHOUT HER GIVING THE OKAY!



OF COURSE NOT! THOUGH I STRONGLY SUSPECT HE'LL--

AND DON'T CALL HER "HE"!



I BELIEVE ELLEN'S BEEN UNFAIRLY RAILROADED INTO BEING A WOMAN. I'M BEING RESPECTFUL.



RESPECTFUL IS RESPECTING WHAT SHE WANTS TO BE CALLED. AND SHE TOLD ME SHE'S A WOMAN!

CALL HER HER UNLESS SHE SAYS OTHERWISE!



IT... FEELS WRONG TO ME...

BUT I SUPPOSE THIS ISN'T ABOUT HOW I FEEL...

FINE



ALSO! I HAVE LITTLE TO NO EXPERIENCE FIGHTING WHILE FLYING!

WHY DOES THAT MATTER?



BECAUSE MY FAILURE TO CLOBBER YOU WHILE IN THIS FORM PROVES NOTHING!



IT WOULDN'T HAVE PROVEN  
ANYTHING EVEN IF YOU HAD.



TERRA COULD BEAT ME IN SPARRING. IN FACT  
SHE USUALLY DID. THAT DOESN'T MEAN SHE  
COULDN'T HAVE BEATEN ME MORE EASILY WITH  
A MALE BODY, OR WOULDN'T HAVE RECOVERED  
MORE EASILY IF I SOMEHOW GOT THE UPPER--

EEEEEEEEEEK!



ASHLEY?!

Earlier, in Arthur's office



YOU ACTUALLY  
CALLED FOR AN  
AMBULANCE.

OF COURSE I DID! YOU  
WERE UNRESPONSIVE!

I'M FINE SYBIL.  
IT'S... COMPLICATED,  
BUT I WAS... JUST.

ARTHUR?



CALL THE PTT...  
THE P.T.A. THAT PLACE  
WITH THE WORTHLESS  
ARTIFACTS! NOW!

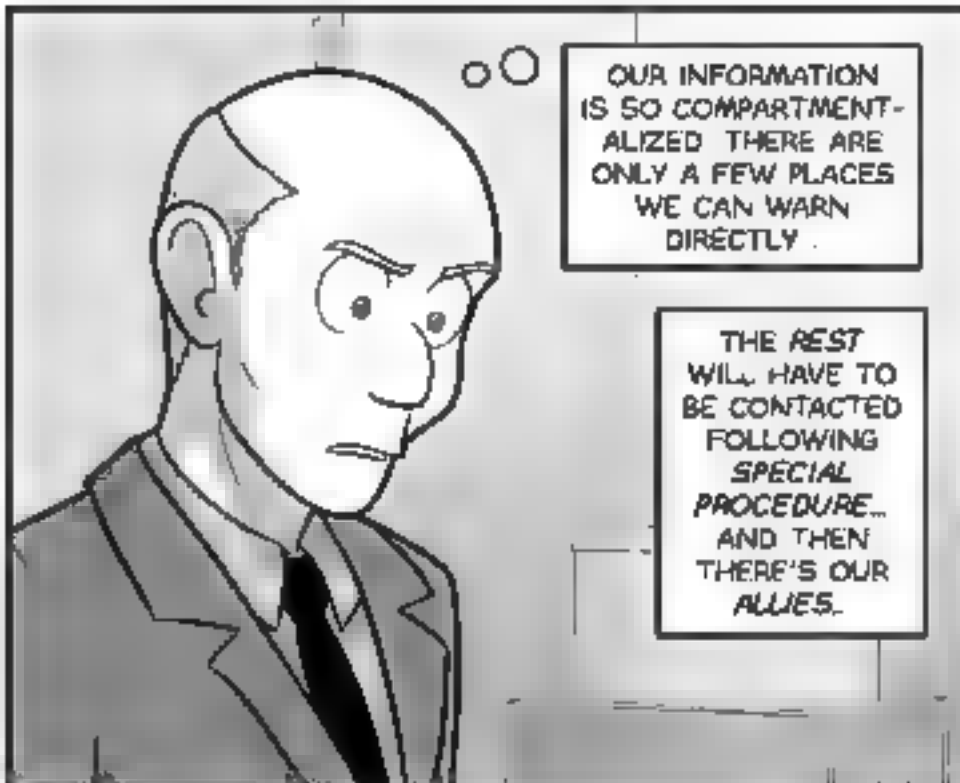
THE  
PTT A.O.  
UTAS.F?  
WHY?



OOF HEAD RUSH... TELL THEM TO TURN ON  
ALL THE LIGHTS AND GET OUT OF THERE! AND  
LEAVE THE RADIO ON IN THE GUARD STATION!  
MAKE IT LOOK LIKE PEOPLE ARE STILL THERE!

BUT IF THE PARKING  
LOT IS EMPTY.

CAN'T BE  
HELPED! DO IT!



OUR INFORMATION IS SO COMPARTMENTALIZED THERE ARE ONLY A FEW PLACES WE CAN WARN DIRECTLY.

THE REST WILL HAVE TO BE CONTACTED FOLLOWING SPECIAL PROCEDURE... AND THEN THERE'S OUR ALLIES.



IF ARTIFACTS FROM OLD SYSTEMS OF MAGIC ARE WORKING AGAIN...

PLEASE DON'T LET THERE BE SEVERAL LARGE SMOKING CRATERS WE HAVE TO EXPLAIN TOMORROW...!

...later than that, but still ear-er



...AND FIND A WAY HOME STEP ASIDE



I'M GOING TO TRY TO WA--

WHOO



THUMP-OOSH

OOF~\*!

ELLIOT!

CREEEAK...BOOM



<WHERE... THIS?>\*

<NOT  
LIBRARY...>

\* Translated from a  
tongue png forgotten



<WHERE...  
LIBRARY?>



STAY  
PERFECTLY  
STILL...

DON'T  
MAKE A  
SOUND...



HARK!  
BE THAT A  
WIZARD IN  
PERIL I  
SENSE?!



'TIS! A  
MAIDEN, NO  
LESS!

PR THEE  
ALLOWETH ME  
TO COMETH  
TO THY AID!



**POOF**

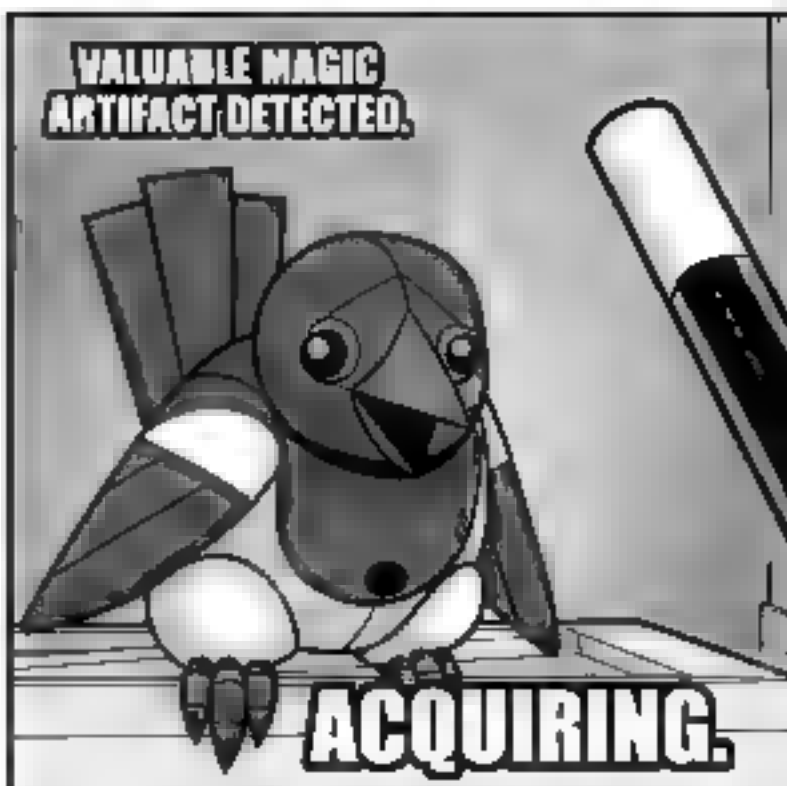
MINE POWER  
COMBINED  
WITH THINE  
SHALL GIVETH  
THOU THE  
STRENGTH  
TO...



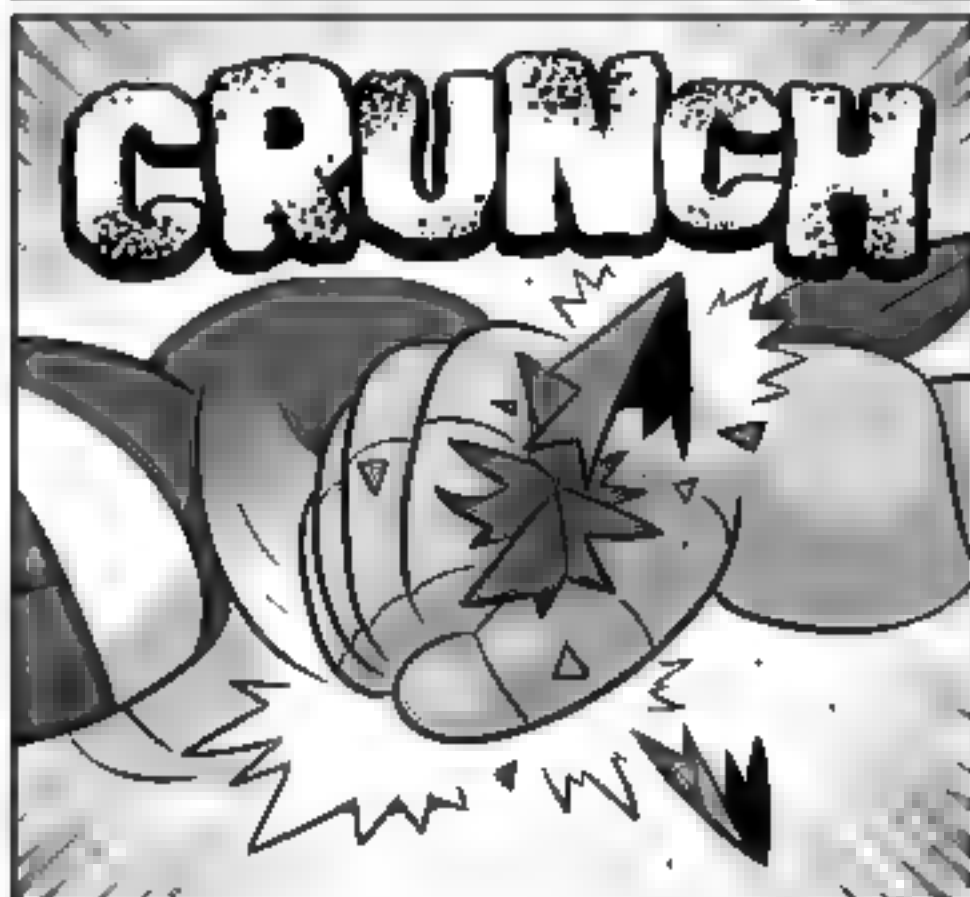
OH WOW YOU  
ARE WEAK ARE  
YOU SURE YOU'RE  
A WIZARD?

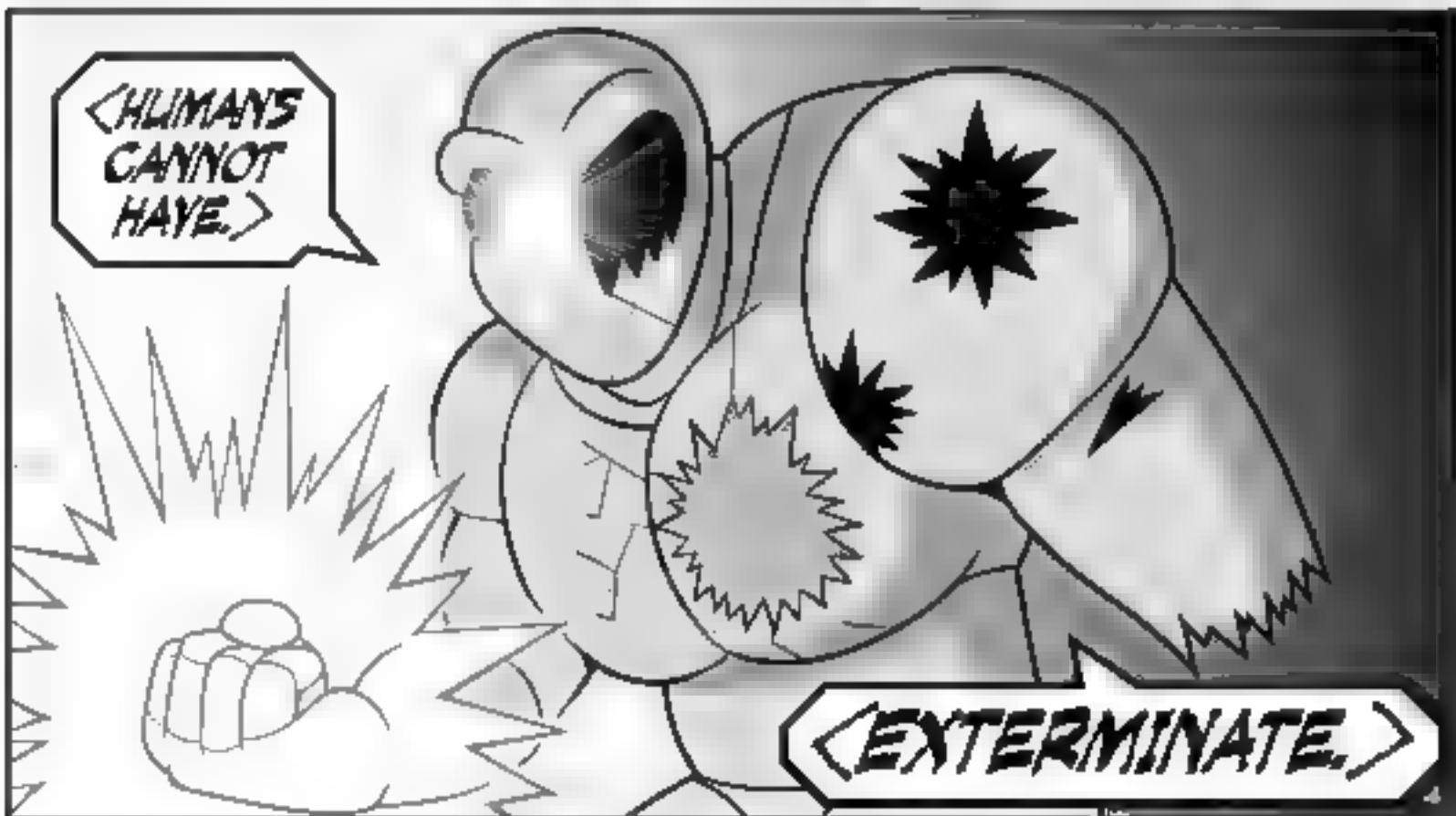
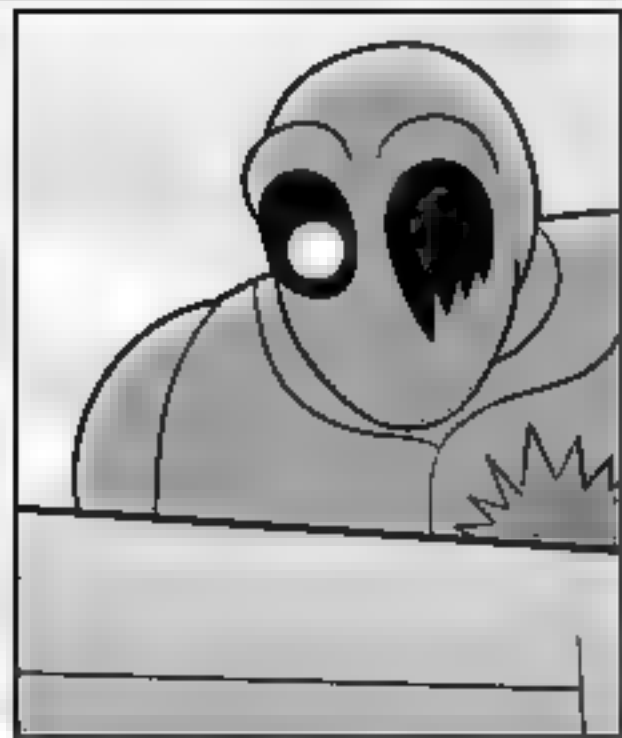
I MEAN,  
OBVIOUSLY, I  
CAN SENSE  
THAT YOU ARE,  
BUT WOW  
YOU'RE WEAK

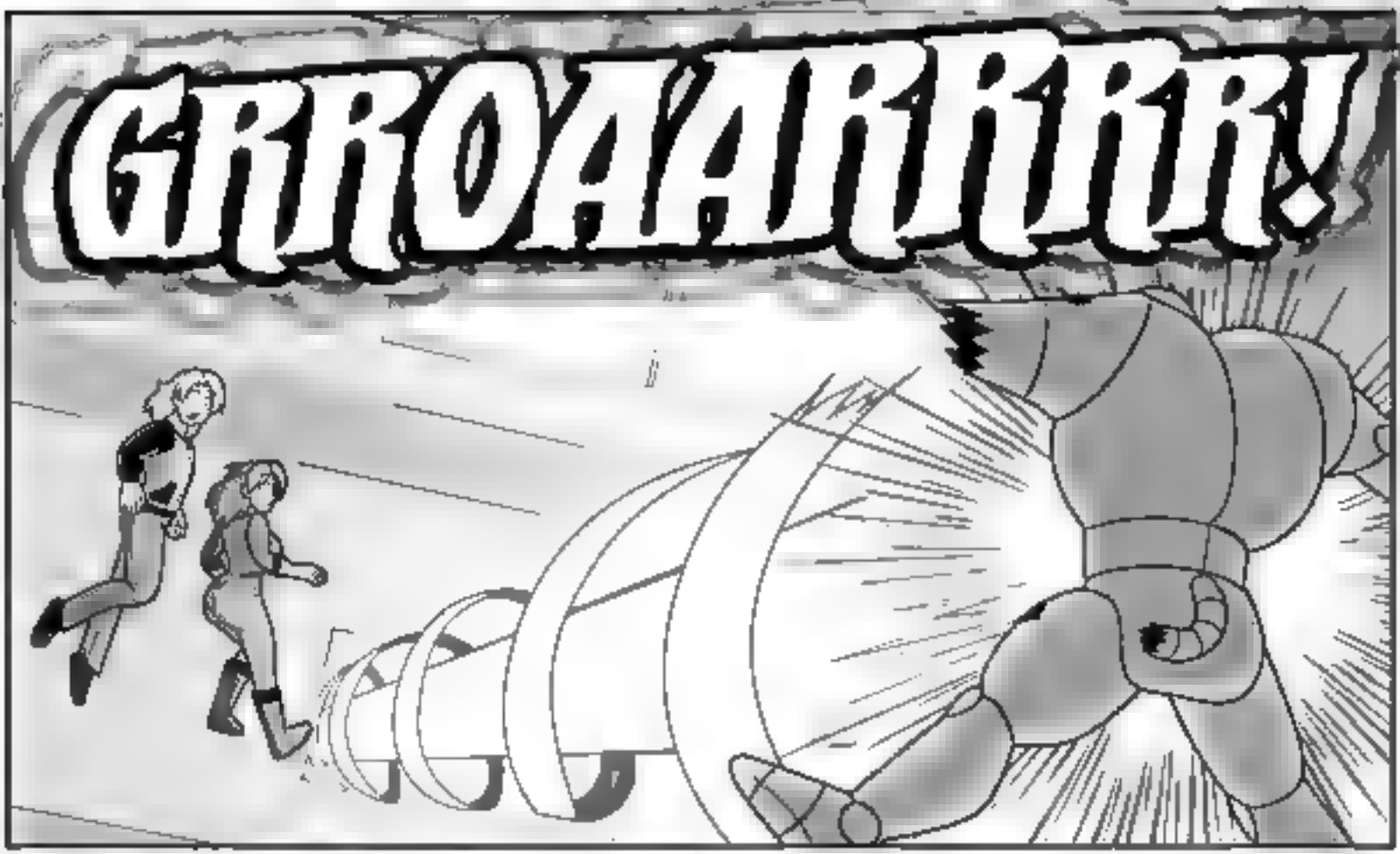


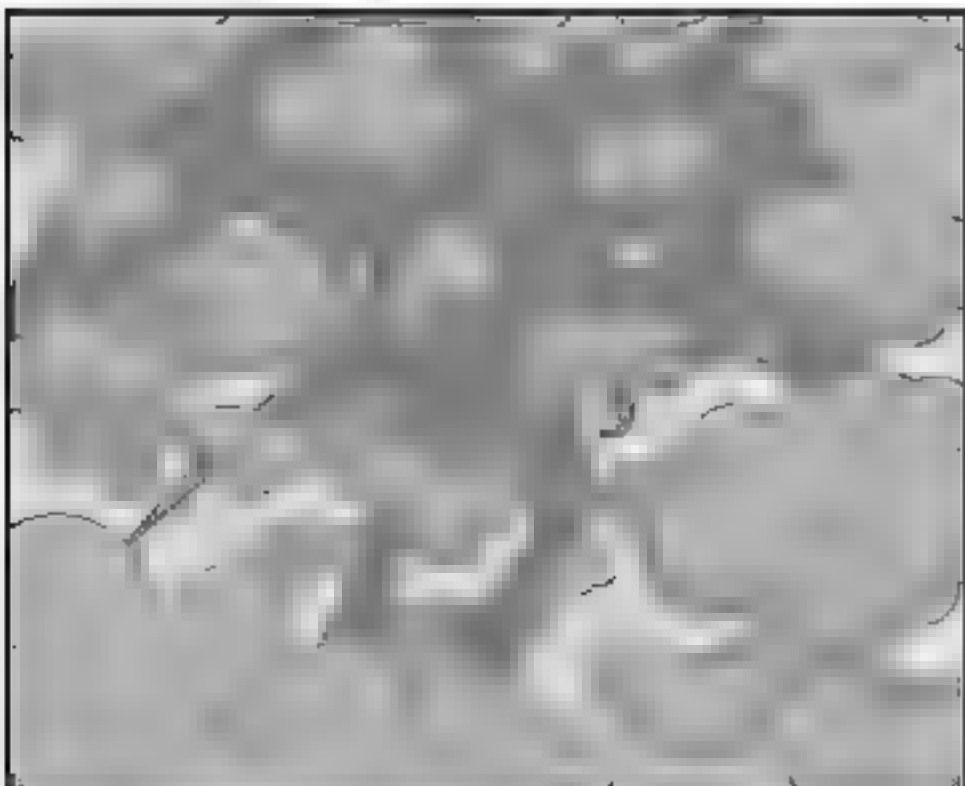


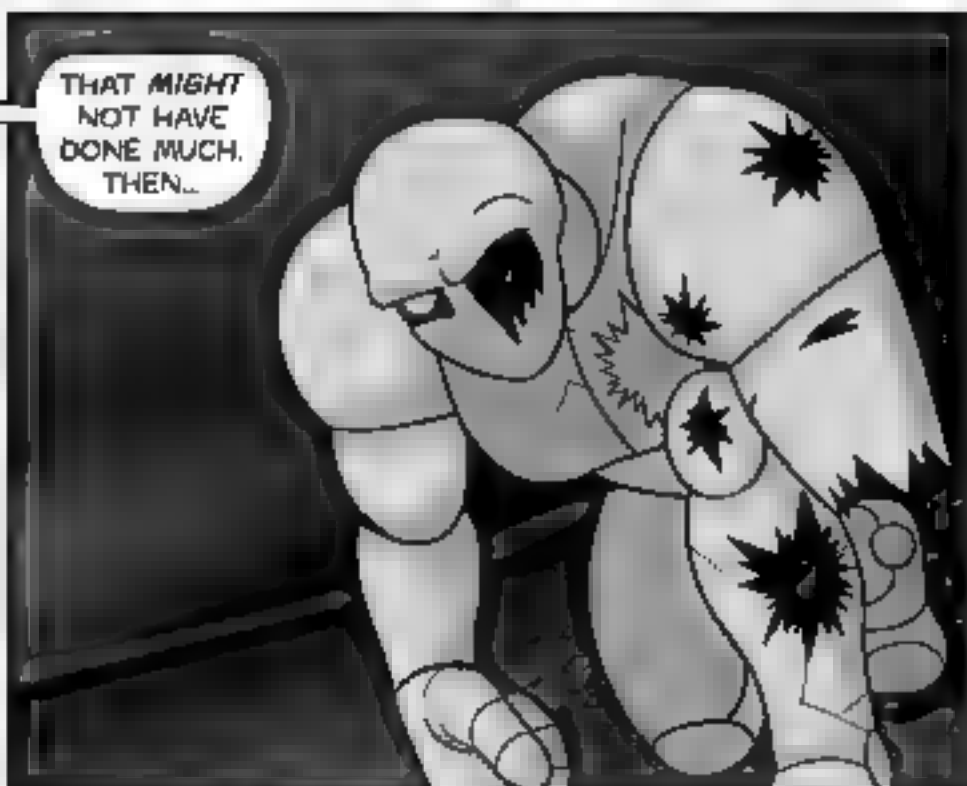



















<ENOUGH!  
URTERONCS! TAKE  
HIM DOWN.>



<I AM SORRY  
AUTOMATONS.>



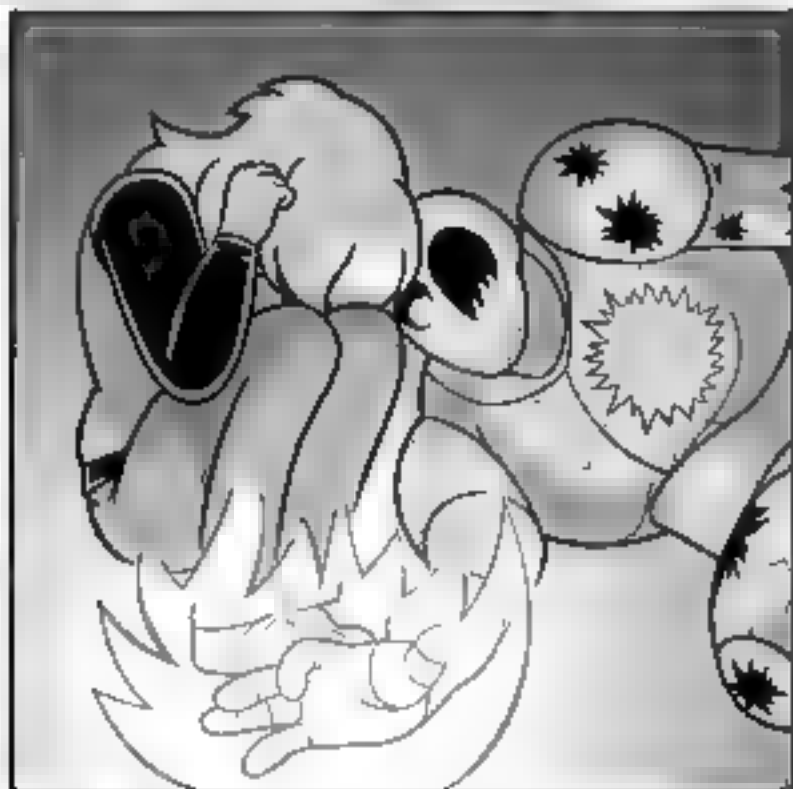
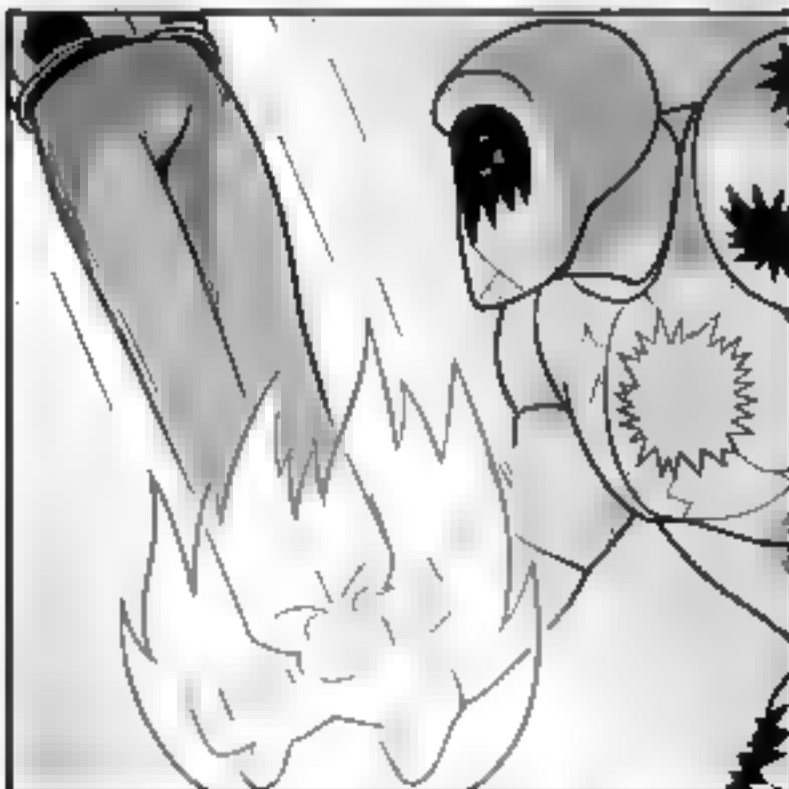
<I KNOW YOU HAVE  
NO WILL IN THE

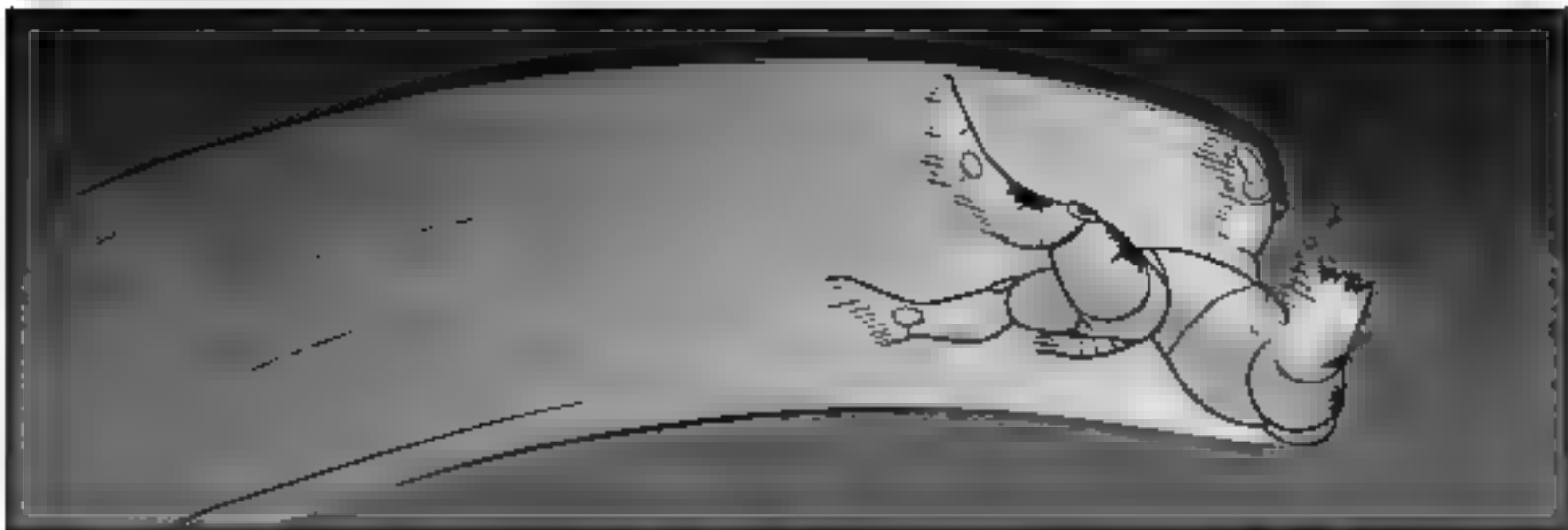


<THIS  
ONE'S  
WILLING>



<...IS FOR HUMANS TO HAVE  
**NOTHING!**>





**THUD** **THUNK**  
**THUNK**





<USED UP POWER  
IN ATTACK...>

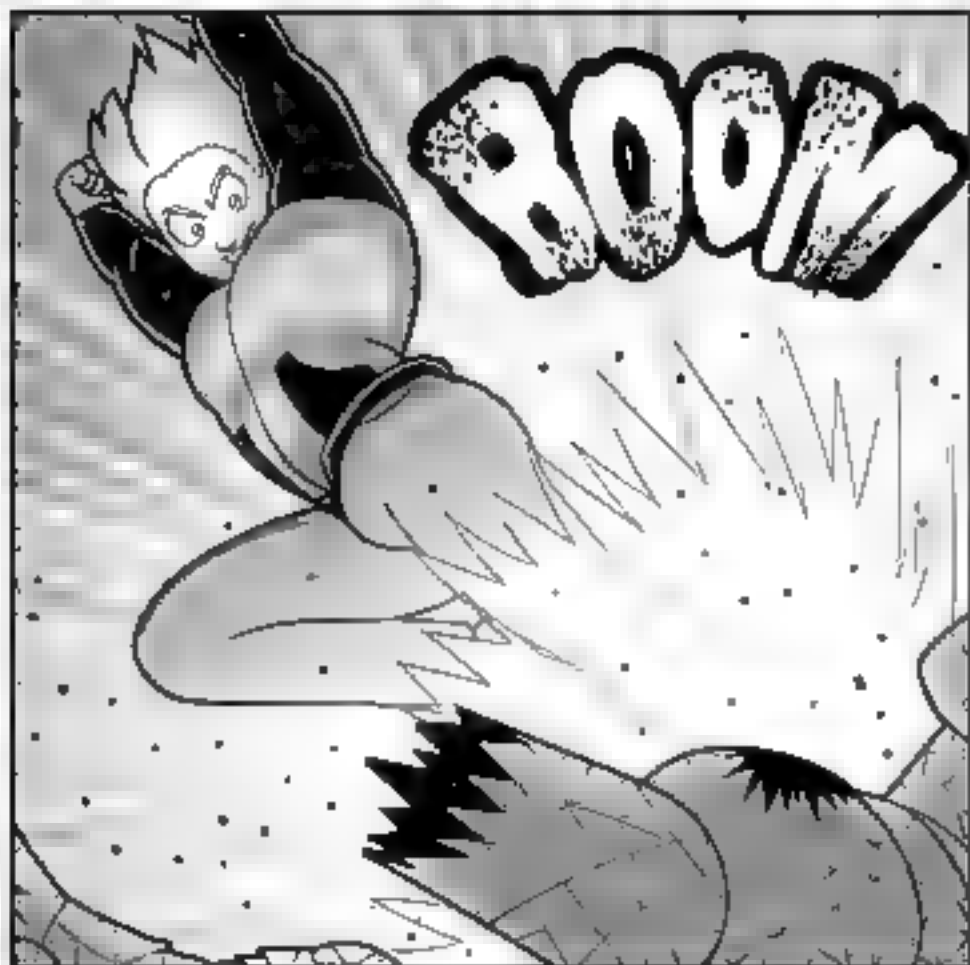
<DURABILITY  
ADVANTAGE LOST  
AT LIBRARY...>



<DO NOT TAKE  
PRIDE IN BESTING  
A BROKEN



DOUBLE  
TAP.



I HAVE GOT TO GET  
BETTER AT FIGHTING.

WHAT'S  
HAPPENING?!

MAGUS  
SORT OF  
SAVED US



WE WOULDN'T HAVE  
NEEDED SAVING IF  
IT WASN'T FOR HIM.

HENCE THE  
"SORT OF"

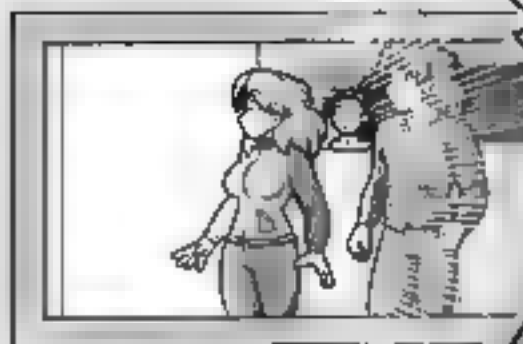




IF I'M QUICK ABOUT IT I  
MIGHT STILL BE ABLE TO  
HELP ELLEN BEFORE I.



**WAA**



I'M  
SORRY  
ELLEN...



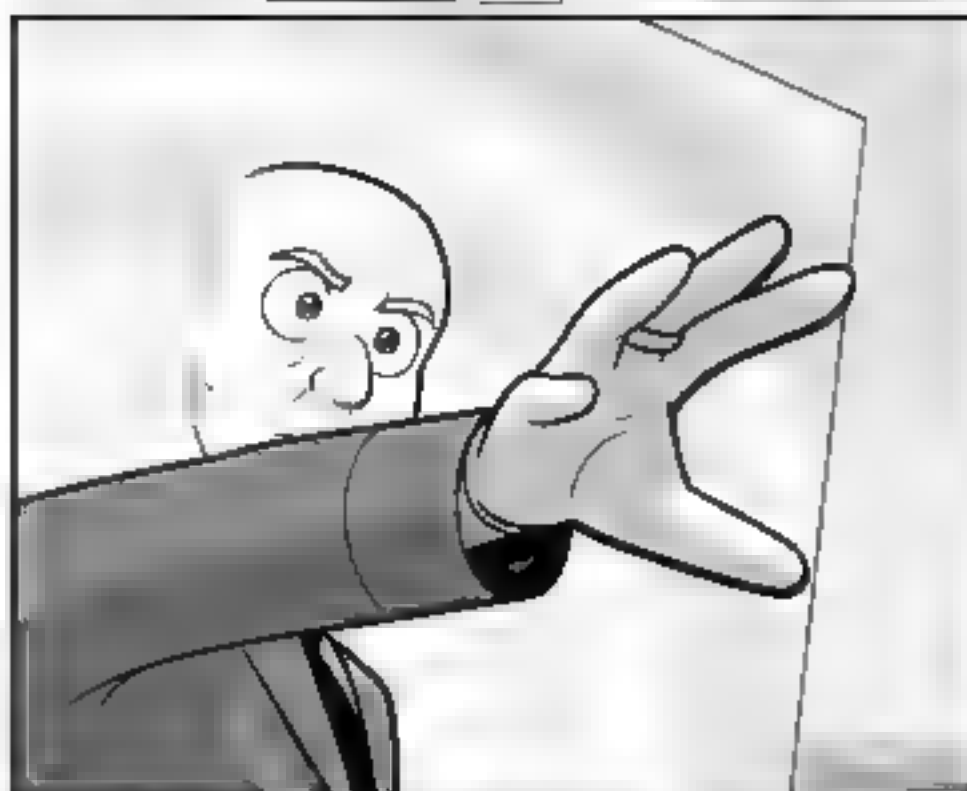
WHAT?  
NO!



**GET BACK  
HERE, YOU DEAD-  
BEAT BASTARD!**

**YOU OWE  
ME BETTER  
THAN THIS!**







A lengthy call later

I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, OKAY?

LOVE YOU, TOO

OKAY SO.

SIRLECK, AS ME, TOLD NANASE TO MEET ME AT THE COLLEGE

NANASE WAS A LITTLE WORRIED WHEN I WAS LATE WITHOUT TEXTING HER. BUT SHE KEPT HER COOL

SHE GOT A LITTLE MORE WORRIED WHEN SHE REALIZED MY PHONE WAS OFF

THEN A FREAKING SUPERNATURAL LIGHTSHOW IN THE SKY HAPPENED, AND SHE REALIZED SHE COULDN'T REACH ME BY FAIRY DOLL.

SHE CALLED MOM AND DAD, AND THEY FIGURED OUT ELLIOT AND ASHLEY WERE MISSING, TOO.

THAT'S WHEN THEY STARTED FORMING THE SEARCH PARTY

THEY ALSO COULDN'T GET IN CONTACT WITH TEDD OR HIS DAD. GRACE CONFIRMED MR. VERRES WAS OUT ON BUSINESS, BUT GRACE WOUND UP LEAVING WORK EARLY TO CHECK ON TEDD

AND APPARENTLY, HE'D BEEN IN SOME SORT OF DREAM WORLD WITH THIS GUY DECIDING THE FATE OF MAGIC OR SOMETHING.

AND BY THE TIME I CALLED, SHE'D FORMED A SEARCH PARTY WITH TEDD, GRACE, MOM, DAD, CHARLOTTE, AND GREG

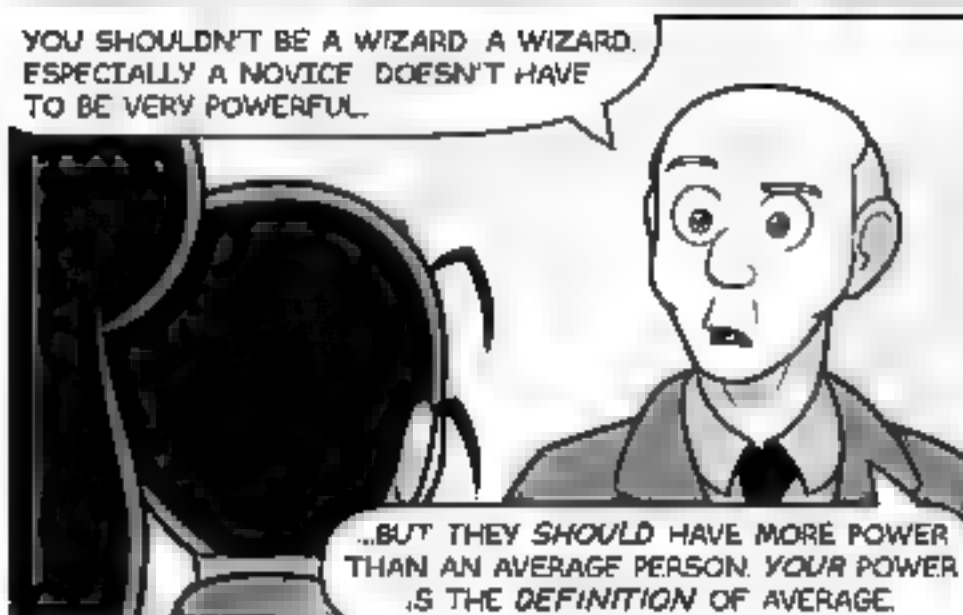
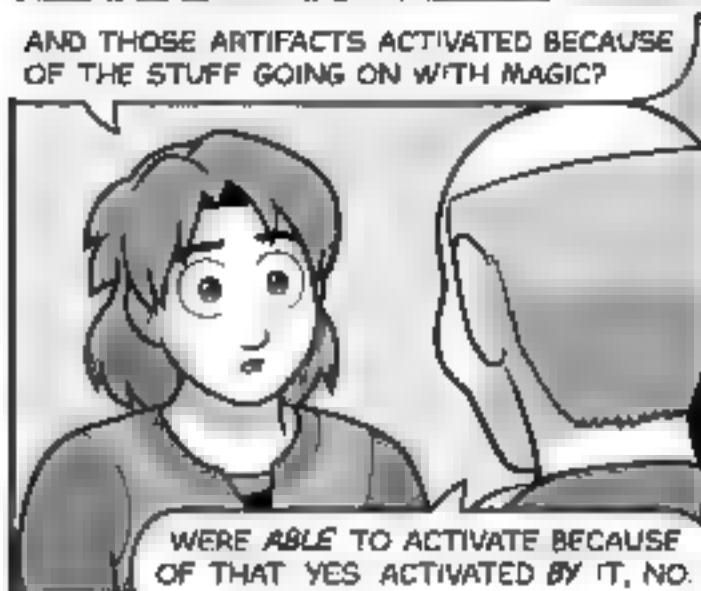
AND SHE AND GRACE HAD ABANDONED ALL SUBTLETY AND WERE FLYING AROUND LOOKING FOR US WITHOUT A CARE FOR SECRECY

FLYING?

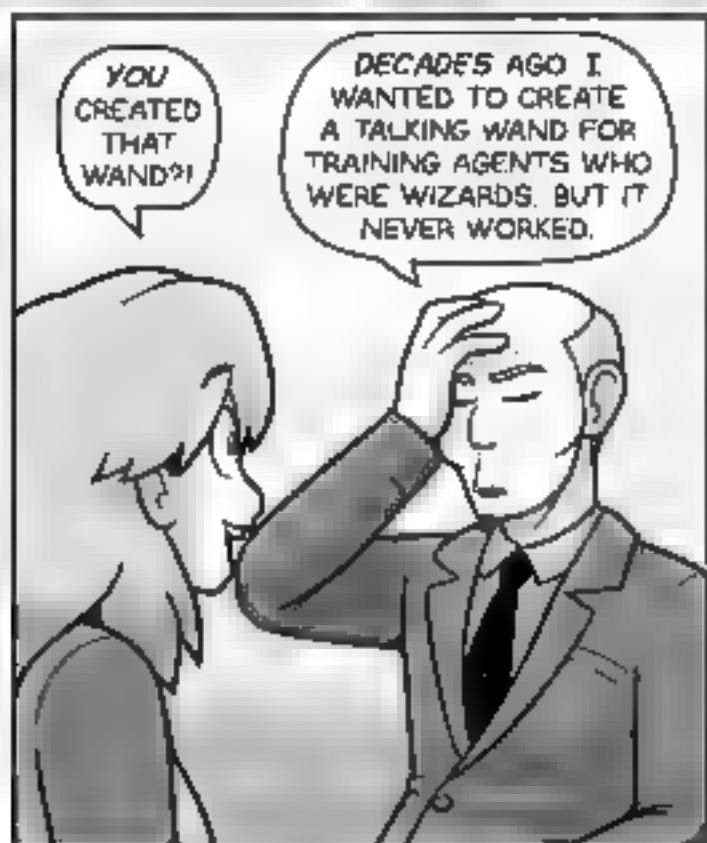
NORMALLY, I WOULD BE FLABBERGASTED BY THIS INFORMATION.

TONIGHT? NOT SO MUCH.

Much recapping later







OKAY, BUT.. I'M SURE YOU .. TALKED WITH THE WAND A BIT, BUT DO YOU EVEN KNOW IT'S SAFE?

KNOW HE'S SAFE

ER, RIGHT SORRY

I'M REASONABLY CERTAIN KEVIN IS SAFE BUT I'M NOT SUGGESTING ASHLEY JUST TAKE KEVIN, AND WHATEVER HAPPENS HAPPENS.

KEVIN WAS INITIALLY ACTIVE WHEN THAT POWER WAS ABSORBED BUT HE'S ASLEEP NOW, AND SHOULDN'T WAKE UP AGAIN WITHOUT BEING PROMPTED IN SOME WAY

WHAT I PROPOSE IS ASHLEY TAKE KEVIN. BUT ONLY TRAIN WITH HIM IN THE COMPANY OF TEDD VERRES.

AT FIRST ANYWAY

WHAT

YOUR FRIEND WHO DID SOMETHING WITH MAGIC EARLIER. ?

KEVIN IS SOMETHING OF A MYSTERY AS IS ASHLEY BEING A WIZARD. SO ALSO IS WHAT'S HAPPENED WITH ELLEN.

TEDD CAN SEE AND INTERPRET MAGIC BEYOND BEING ABLE TO HELP ASHLEY WITH MAGIC WHILE POSSIBLY LEARNING A THING OR TWO HERSELF.

..I INTEND TO GIVE HER A LAB, AND TO TASK HER WITH SOLVING SOME OF MAGIC'S MYSTERIES

IT APPEARS WE'VE FOUND A FEW FOR HER TO START WITH,

THE WAND WAS  
SUPPOSED TO  
VOCALIZE LESSONS.  
IT WAS NEVER  
SUPPOSED TO BE...  
SENTIENT

SOMETHING ABOUT  
THE CHANGES TO MAGIC  
HAVE NOT ONLY MADE  
THE WAND WORK, BUT  
HAVE MADE "KEVIN" A  
THINKING BEING.

A THINKING BEING WITH GOALS AND  
ASPIRATIONS BASED ON TRAINING  
OBJECTIVES I TRIED TO GIVE AN ANIMATE  
OBJECT BUT THINKING NONETHELESS.

EVEN WE  
HAVE INSTINCTS,  
DUDE

EA, RIGHT NORMALLY  
WE WOULD WANT TO  
CONFISCATE SOMETHING  
LIKE KEVIN... BUT KEVIN  
IS NOT A "THING"

HE IS. LIFE LIFE  
I UNINTENTIONALLY  
CREATED.

AND ALL HE WANTS  
OUT OF LIFE IS TO  
TRAIN YOU TO BE A  
BETTER WIZARD.

KEVIN SHOULD HIDE WHAT HE  
IS WHEN AROUND PEOPLE YOU  
HAVEN'T INTRODUCED HIM TO.  
AND SHOULD BE... I SUPPOSE  
SLEEPING. BETWEEN LESSONS  
YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO DEAL  
WITH HIM CONSTANTLY

BUT I WOULD ASK  
YOU TO KEEP HIM.

YOU, THE GUY RESPONSIBLE  
FOR MAGIC SECRECY, WANT TO  
GIVE ASHLEY A TALKING WAND  
WHOSE LIFE GOAL IS MAKING  
HER A BETTER WIZARD?

ELLEN...!  
IXNAY  
ON THE  
LOGIC-AY!

CAN'T IXNAY  
SUSPICIOUS.

AS I HAVE  
SAID. KEVIN'S  
"INSTINCTS"  
SHOULD KEEP  
HIM COVERT

AND AS MY  
DAUGHTER  
WOULD ASSURE  
YOU I SUPPORT  
LIFE I HAVE  
UNINTENTIONALLY  
CREATED

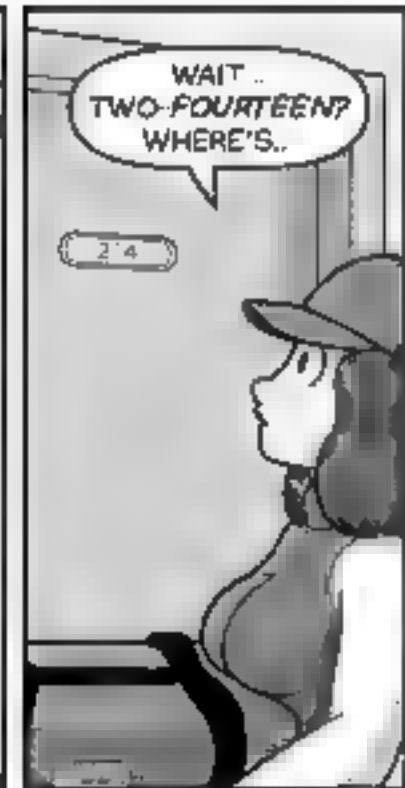
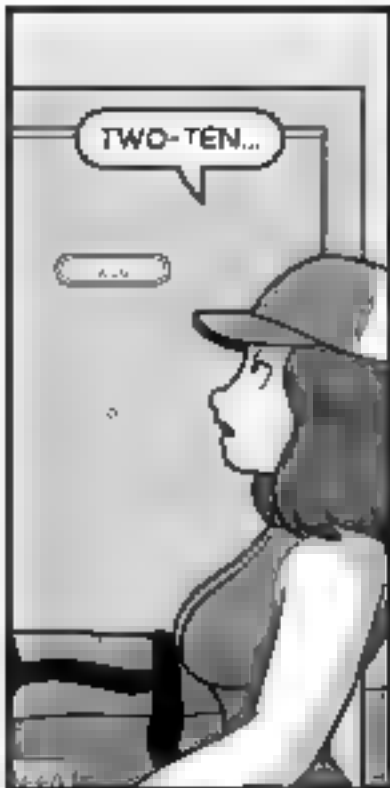














Somet me after much hugging ..



I AM NOT LOOKING FORWARD TO GOING OVER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED AGAIN IN DETAIL WITH MOM AND DAD TOMORROW

EVERYONE ELSE IS GOING TO WANT TO KNOW WHAT HAPPENED. TOO



MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY AND THEY'LL BE SATISFIED BY WHAT I TOLD NANASE.

OR.. MAYBE ARTHUR WILL TELL TEDD EVERY THING WHILE GIVING HIM ASSIGNMENTS, AND HE CAN TAKE OVER EXPOSITION.

THERE... IS SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU ABOUT



UNLESS IT'S THE SORT OF THING THAT'S GONNA MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR YOU TO SLEEP IT CAN WAIT

..UM..

OH, GOSH CAN IT ASK



YOU KNOW HOW I ATTACKED MAGUS?



BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT HE WAS GONNA TURN ME INTO A MAN WITHOUT ASKING ME YEAH

IT SOUNDED LIKE HE WAS ALL SORTS OF PROJECTING.



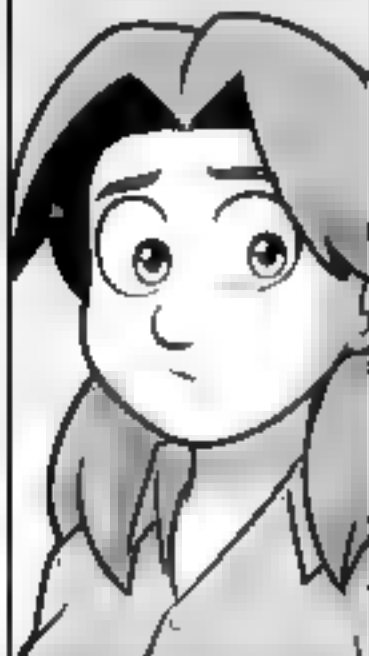
HE PROBABLY WAS, BUT.. HE ALSO SAID A BUNCH OF STUFF ABOUT HOW EVERYONE UNFAIRLY PRESSURED YOU INTO STAYING A GIRL, AND

IT DIDN'T SOUND WRONG.

NOBODY ASKED IF YOU WANTED TO STAY A GIRL, AND THERE WERE OPTIONS...



MAGUS THINKS WE ALL CARED MORE ABOUT YOU BEING DIFFERENT FROM ME THAN WHAT YOU WANTED.



IT'S TRUE THAT NOBODY ASKED ME AND THAT SOMEONE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE..



BUT I KNEW THERE WERE OPTIONS, AND I WANTED TO BE DIFFERENT FROM YOU, TOO.

I WANTED AN IDENTITY OF MY OWN. AND I WAS COMFORTABLE AS A GIRL.



NOW I'M SO COMFORTABLE THAT THE IDEA OF BEING MALE AGAIN MAKES ME CRINGE

WE STILL SHOULD'VE ASKED.

TRUE, BUT HIND-SIGHT IS TWENTY-TWENTY DON'T BEAT YOURSELF UP OVER IT



SO MAGUS REALLY WAS MOSTLY PROJECTING.

"WELL..?"

WELL..



UM.. OKAY MAGUS COULD ONLY GET LIMITED GLIMPSES AT US TOGETHER. AND HE WAS ALWAYS CHECKING MY EMOTIONS, RIGHT?

TO SEE IF YOU FELT LIKE ZAPPING ME YEAH.

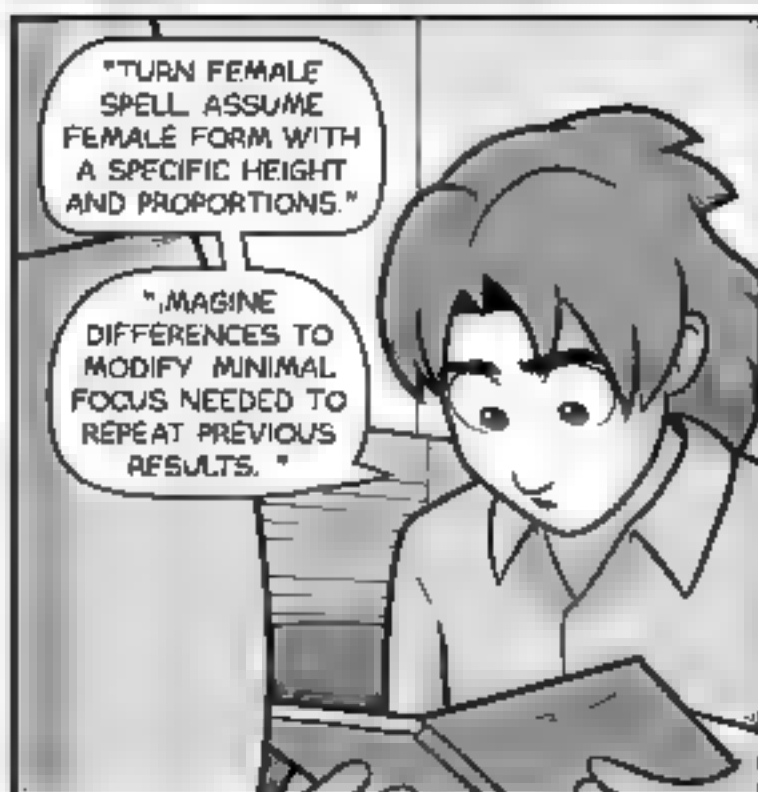


AND I NEVER DID. BUT I HAD A LOT OF MIXED FEELINGS AND GRUMPINESS FOR A WHILE



DEPENDING ON WHEN HE WAS CHECKING... IT WOULD'VE BEEN REALLY EASY TO INTERPRET IT HOW HE DID.







SO I GUESS. EVERY SPELL BOOK'S GONNA BE LIKE THIS NOW?

IT CAN'T JUST BE OURS, RIGHT?



I GUESS? NANASE WON'T BE HAPPY SHE LIKED FIGURING OUT THE DESCRIPTIONS.

SPELLBOOKS CHANGING. OLD MAGIC ARTIFACTS DOING STUFF A WAND THAT NEVER WORKED... WORKING...

FOR MAGIC "NOT CHANGING", A LOT OF STUFF IS CHANGING

TEDD WOULD HAVE MAGIC-BABBLE FOR THIS. SOMETHING LIKE "IT TECHNICALLY DIDN'T CHANGE BUT MIXING IN OLD STUFF MIXED IT UP"



AND WE'D NOD AND SAY "SURE" YEAH.



I WONDER IF ANYTHING ELSE IS DIFFERENT

Meanwhile



JM, TEDD?

YEAH, GRACE?



THEY DIDN'T LOOSEN UP TONIGHT

THEY CHANGED SIZE WITH ME?

YOU KNOW HOW I LIKE TO GO HALF-SQUIRREL TO LOOSEN UP MY CLOTHES BEFORE CHANGING INTO MY PAJAMAS?



GIVEN HIS PERSONAL HISTORY WHAT HE'D DONE, AND THE STUFF HE SENSED. HE PROBABLY THINKS HE LEFT ME A TRANS MAN. PROBABLY FEELS GUILTY AS HELL ABOUT IT TOO.

I'D MOSTLY FEEL SORRY FOR HIM IF I WASN'T PISSED ABOUT HIM RUNNING OFF WITHOUT TALKING TO ME.



AND YOU'RE SURE YOU

YES! ME GIRL! HAPPY LADY GIRL WOMAN!



HECK. ELLIOT THINK ABOUT IT! I'M AN AWAKENED MAGIC USER, AND I GOT OVER THE ENERGY BUILDUP STUFF AGES AGO!

IF I REALLY WANTED TO BE A MAN, I'D HAVE SPELLS FOR IT!



OH MY GOD YOU'RE RIGHT! I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT OF THAT...

GASP! MY SPELL-BOOK!

ZA?



I NEED TO CHECK IT FOR DRAGONY THINGS!

OH YEAH!



DRAGON DRAGON DRA-GON, DRAGON DRAGON, DRAGON?

WHAT? WHAT IS IT?



MY SPELL-BOOK'S LOST WEIGHT...?

THAT... SHOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE! YOUR TRANSFORMATIONS DON'T RADIATE MAGIC BEYOND THE BODY! THAT'S NECESSARY FOR AFFECTING CLOTHING!

MAYBE I AWAKENED?

I DON'T SEE HOW YOU'D NEED SPECIAL TRAINING TO BUILD UP YOUR "HUMAN" MAGIC!

SCIENCE?

TRAINING THAT DOESN'T USE ANY OF MY URYUOM-TYPE STUFF YEAH.

MAGIC?

THIS DOESN'T... MAGIC FOR HUMANS IS SUPPOSED TO BE UNCHANGED, AND THEY DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT URYUOMS BEING AFFECTED!

MAYBE IT'S "OLD" MAGIC?

WHAT JUST SOME OLD SYSTEM OF MAGIC YOU CAN SUDDENLY USE NOW?

MAYBE? SOME THING'S GOING ON...

"...AND I DOUBT IT'S JUST ME"

"WELL... MAYBE IT'S JUST ME I GUESS IT COULD BE A HUMAN-SQUIRREL-URYUOM-LESPUKO THING."

"DID MAGIC MENTION SQUIRRELS?"

HAHAHAHA

HEH

HAHAHAHA

HEH HEH HEH HA HA HA HA HA HA HA









WHY? WHY  
WERE ALL THOSE  
VAMPIRES AT  
THE...?



I DON'T KNOW IT  
SOUNDED LIKE THEY  
WERE JUST TRASHING  
THE PLACE FOR SOME  
REASON, AND RAVEN  
STEPPED UP.

AND SUSAN,  
NOT READY TO TALK  
ABOUT IT BUT SHE  
WAS THERE.



I GUESS SUSAN MIGHT BE ABLE  
TO TELL US MORE BUT THERE'S  
ONE THING I DO KNOW THAT  
MAGIC ITSELF TOLD ME.



PANDORA DID SOMETHING MOST  
IMMORTALS DON'T EVEN TRY SHE'S  
STILL GOING TO BE DIFFERENT BUT  
SHE'S GOING TO REMEMBER  
EVERYONE IMPORTANT TO HER.

REALLY REMEMBER.  
NOT JUST LIKE  
SHE READ IT OUT  
OF SOMEONE  
ELSE'S DIARY



THAT  
THAT'S  
GOOD

SHE PROBABLY  
WON'T REMEMBER  
ME, BUT...




SARAH, PANDORA  
VOWED TO HELP YOU  
AWAKEN. SHE CALLED  
YOU HER FRIEND.



DO NOT  
UNDERESTIMATE  
THE POWER OF  
FRIENDSHIP





THE ONLY ADVICE I  
CAN REALLY GIVE YOU IS  
"PRACTICE" AND YOU HAVE  
TWO PROBLEMS WITH  
SPARRING WHILE FLYING

FINDING A PARTNER  
AND SOMEWHERE  
SECRET TO DO IT



YOU KNOW  
NANASE AND  
GRACE YOU'VE  
GOT SPARRING  
PARTNERS

NO, YOUR  
SECOND PROBLEM'S  
MAKING IT SAFE


YOU ALL COULD GET  
SERIOUSLY HURT, OR  
WORSE, SPARRING IN  
THE AIR LIKE THAT



SO WE'VE  
GOT TO FIND  
SOMEWHERE  
SECRET WITH A  
SAFETY NET?


HONESTLY, YOUR BEST  
BET, ASIDE FROM AVOIDING  
FIGHTS, IS TO TREAT FLIGHT  
LIKE A BOOST TO EVASION  
AND GENERAL MOBILITY

USE IT TO HELP YOU MOVE  
AROUND AND DODGE, BUT KEEP THE  
ACTUAL FIGHTING GROUNDED




KNOWING MY LUCK,  
I'LL WIND UP IN SOME  
SITUATION WHERE  
THAT'S NOT AN OPTION  
FOR SOME REASON.

TROUBLE DOES  
SEEM TO FIND  
YOU I ADMIT



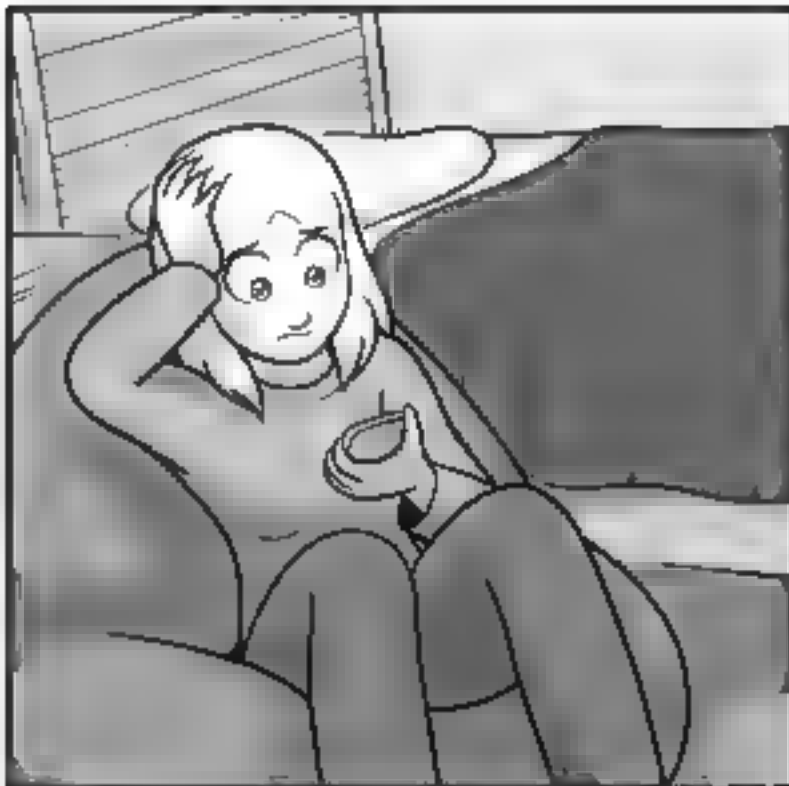
THAT'S WHY I NEED  
TO GET BETTER AT  
FIGHTING. BOTH IN  
THE AIR AND ON  
THE GROUND!

WHILE YOU'RE ON A  
SELF IMPROVEMENT  
KICK, YOU MIGHT  
CONSIDER A HAIRCUT



BECAUSE AN ANIME  
PROTAGONIST MIGHT  
CHANGE THEIR HAIR  
TO SYMBOLIZE THEIR  
GROWTH?

SURE LET'S  
GO WITH THAT



DON'T GET ME WRONG. IF I DO HEAR ANYTHING. I'LL TELL YOU. BUT ALL I REALLY DO IS PAY ATTENTION TO PARANORMAL NEWS AND MY FORUM.

UNLESS THIS "LIGHT BLONDE A.U. ELIJOT" DOES SOMETHING SPOOKY THAT GETS PEOPLE'S ATTENTION. I'M NOT SURE WHAT GOOD I CAN DO

AND IF HE DOES DO THAT, ODDS ARE THE PARANORMAL SPOOKS ARE GOING TO HEAR ABOUT IT FIRST

I KNOW IT'S A LONG SHOT, BUT IF THE GOVERNMENT FINDS HIM FIRST, I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO TO HIM.

(Expertly disguised Ellen!)

(Don't tell anyone)

WELL, TRY TO DO TO HIM, GUY WAS TRAINING TO FIGHT DRAGONS IN WAYS THAT REQUIRE UPPER BODY STRENGTH, SO... GOOD LUCK

YOU WANT TO PROTECT HIM.

I WANT TO TALK TO HIM.

AFTER THAT, I JUST WANT HIM TO GO HOME

NOTHING'S GAINED BY PUNISHING HIM FOR STUFF HE DID WHILE DESPERATELY ESCAPING A SORT OF HELL

IT SEEMS IF HE KNEW HOW TO GET HOME HE WOULD BE GONE ALREADY

I DON'T THINK HE HAS A CLUE HOW TO GET BACK, WHICH MAKES HIM RUNNING OFF WITHOUT TALKING TO ME ALL THE MORE STUPID

YOU KNOW HOW TO GET HIM HOME?

NOPE! BUT TECHNICALLY SPEAKING I GREW UP WITH SOMEONE WHO MIGHT...

AND SHE'S OVERDUE FOR A VISIT



# The D.C. Mope

Global Paranormal Event

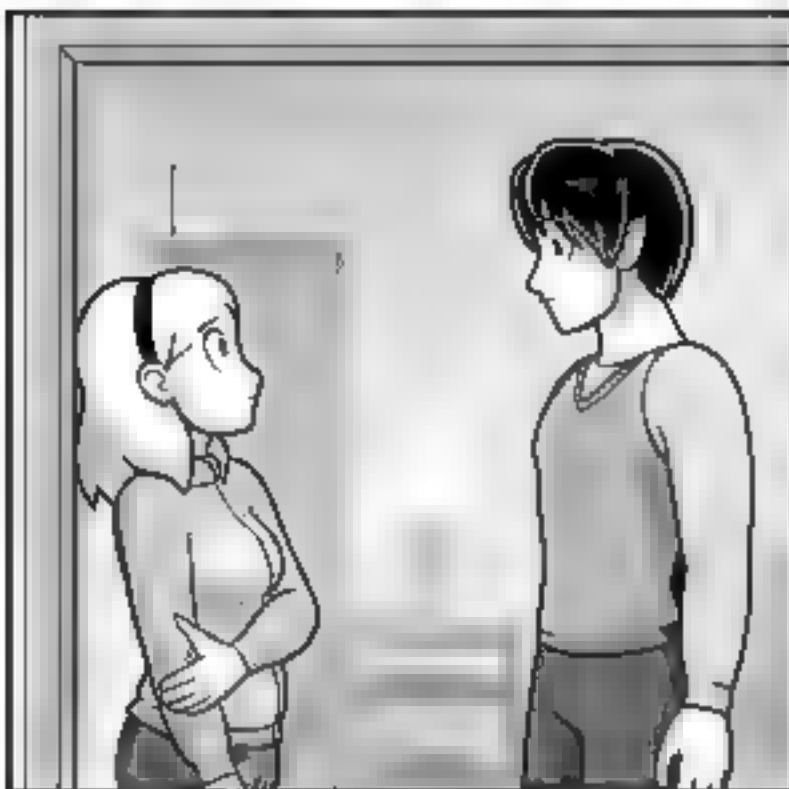
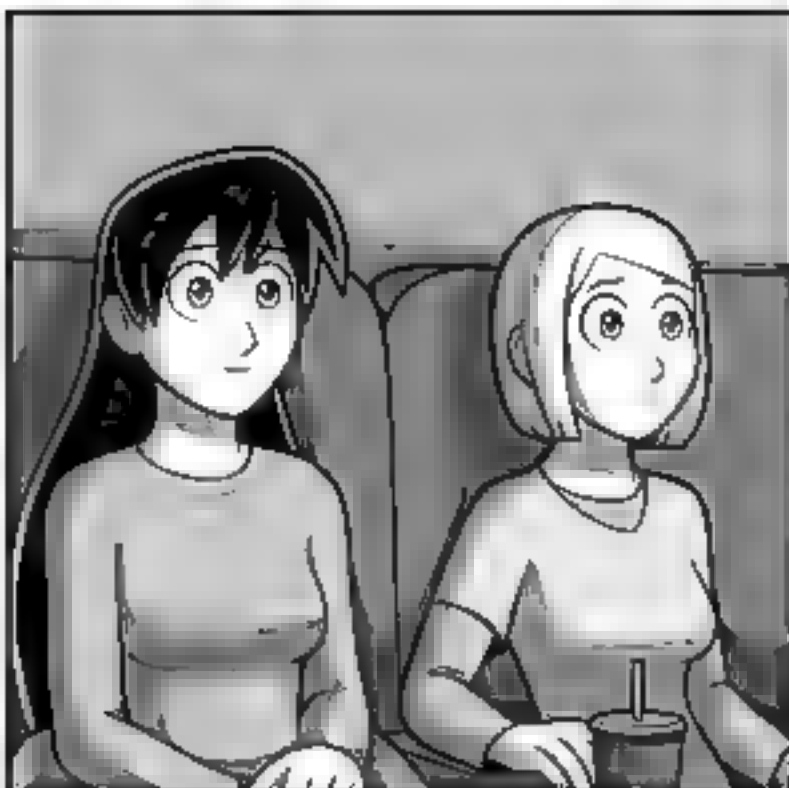
“Holy Carp”

Declare Experts









MY FELLOW IMMORTALS. I APOLOGIZE FOR MESSAGING EVERYONE LIKE THIS.



THE ABILITY TO CONTACT EVERY OTHER IMMORTAL LIKE THIS IS MEANT TO BE USED IN ONLY THE RAREST OF SITUATIONS IN WHICH ALL OR MOST OF US ARE AFFECTED.

...BUT WE ALL KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THIS LAST FRIDAY WE ALL KNOW WHY IT HAPPENED.



THE "ONLY EMPOWER AND GUIDE MORTALS" RESTRICTIONS MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR ONE OF US TO PROTECT HER SON WITHOUT SACRIFICING HERSELF



I DO NOT DEFEND FORCING THE REST OF US TO DESTROY NEARLY ALL THE ABERRATIONS ON THE PLANET...



...BUT OUR LAWS PUT HER IN THAT POSITION, AND WE ALL KNOW WHY SHE DID IT



NOT ONLY ARE OUR LAWS UNJUSTLY RESTRICTIVE, BUT WE HAVE GREATER PERSONAL STAKES IN THIS WORLD THAN MOST OF US EVER REALIZED.

HOW MANY OF US HAVE FAMILY WE'VE FORGOTTEN?



HOW MANY DESCENDANTS ARE WE UNABLE TO PROTECT OR EVEN JUST PROPERLY INTERACT WITH AS EQUALS?

WE ARE HOBbled BY OUR OWN LAWS. AND I HAVE HAD ENOUGH.

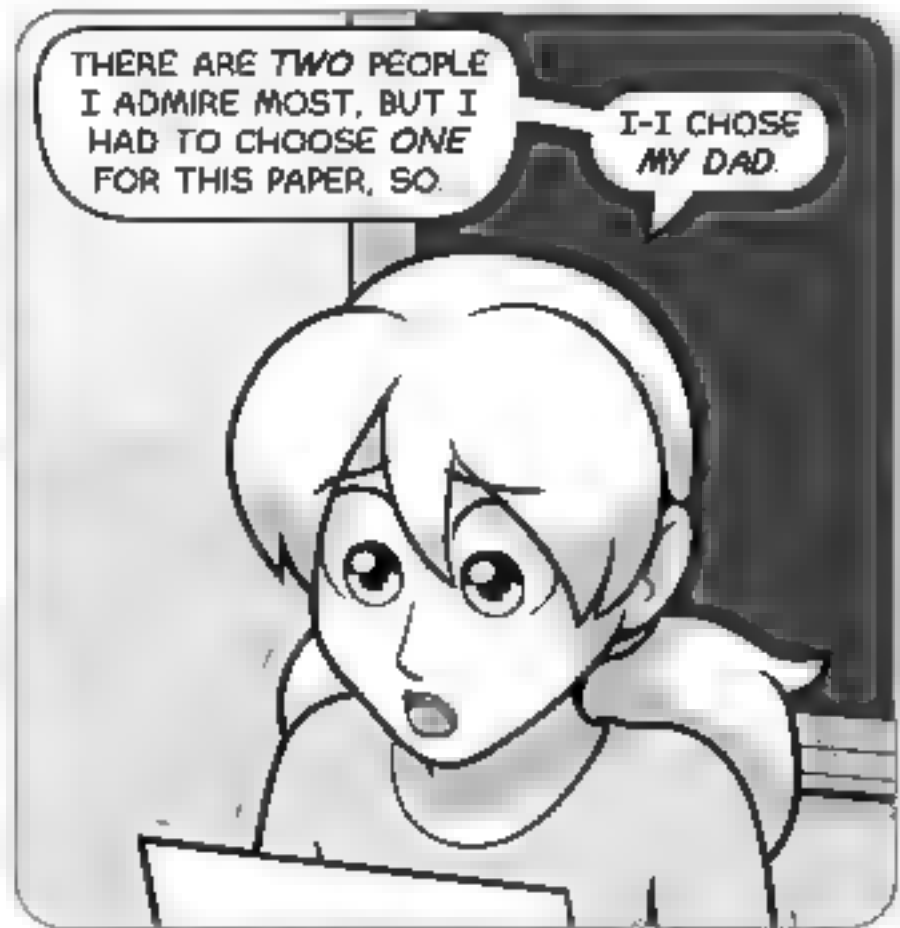
I PROPOSE WE CHANGE OUR LAWS. AND IF ENOUGH OF US AGREE WE CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN.

WE CAN RETURN FROM THE ROLE OF PATHETIC MUSES, TRICKSTERS, AND GIFT GIVERS...



...TO THAT OF DEMIGODS.

# The Legend of D'iane



WHAAAT?!



WHAT?!

WHAT HAPPENED?!

WAS THERE AN ACCIDENT?!

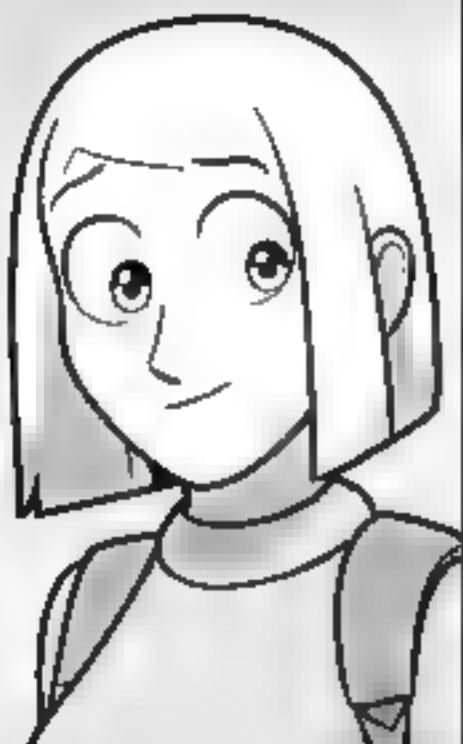


I GOT A HAIRCUT

IS IT BAD?



IT'S CUTE!



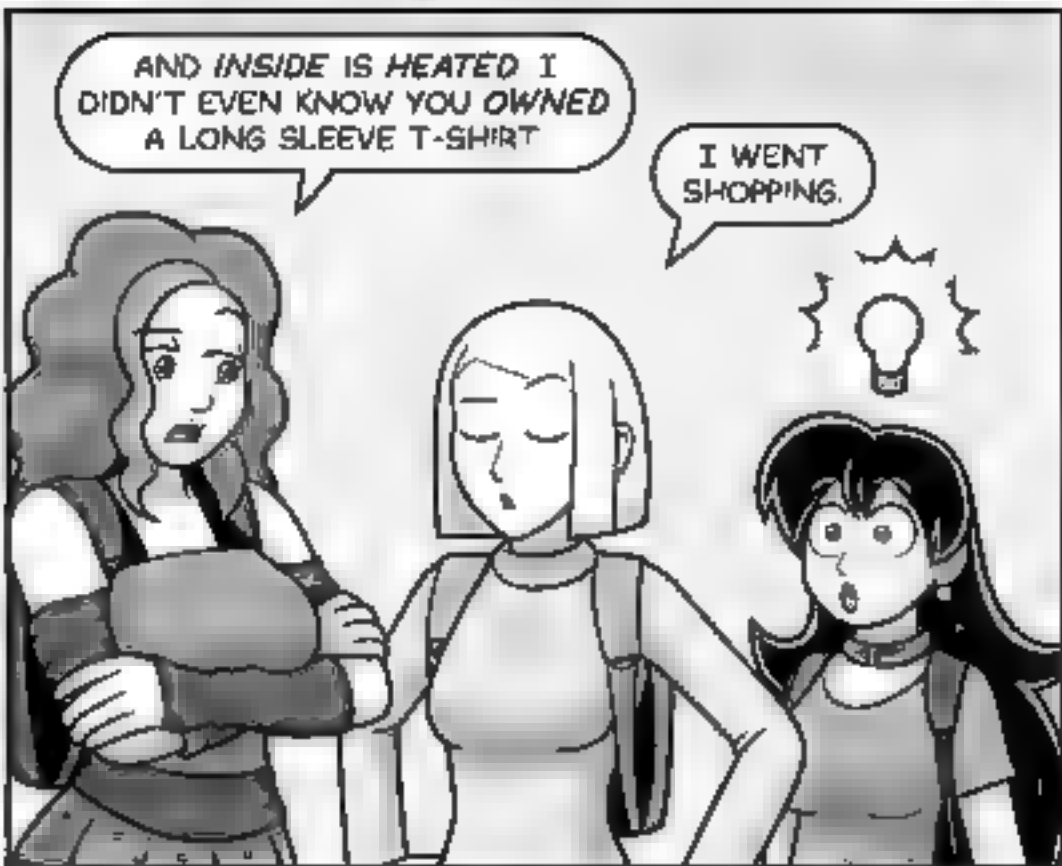
YOU'RE WEARING LONG SLEEVES?

IT'S COLD OUT, LUCY



AND INSIDE IS HEATED I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU OWNED A LONG SLEEVE T-SHIRT

I WENT SHOPPING.



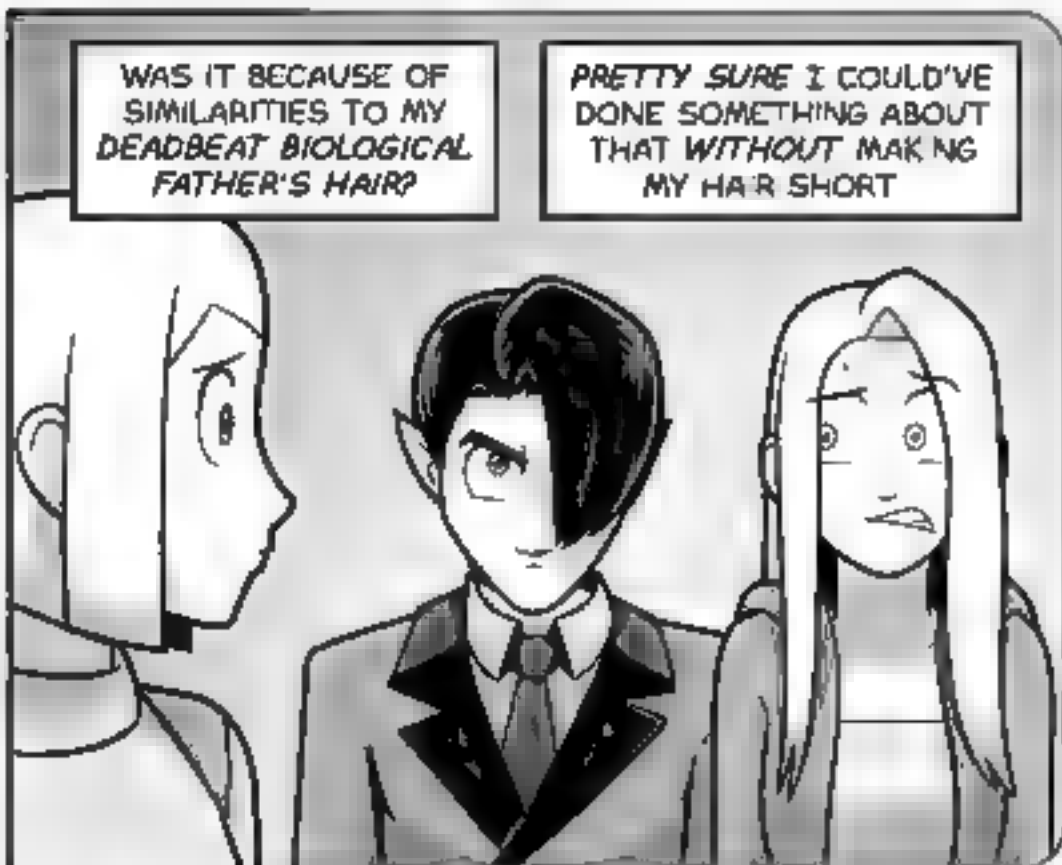






WHY DID I GET A HAIRCUT?

I DID JUST FEEL LIKE GETTING ONE, BUT WHY?



WAS IT BECAUSE OF SIMILARITIES TO MY DEADBEAT BIOLOGICAL FATHER'S HAIR?

PRETTY SURE I COULD'VE DONE SOMETHING ABOUT THAT WITHOUT MAKING MY HAIR SHORT



I'VE BEEN IN THE MOOD FOR CHANGE A LOT LATELY, EVEN BEFORE FRIDAY

MAYBE I'M JUST BORED?

HAVE YOU SEEN DIANE ANYWHERE?

NOPE.



EH?

YOU REALLY THINK SHE KILLED A MONSTER?

THAT BIMBO? PHHBT, NO, BUT ASKING ABOUT IT IS A HELL OF AN OPENING LINE

???



HEY! I CALLED DIBS!

THERE'S NO "DIBS"! ESPECIALLY NOT ON DIANE I'VE HIT THAT BEFORE!

WHAT?



YEAH, YOU AND HALF THE SCHOOL, AND ME BUT THIS TIME, I'VE GOT DIBS!

WHAT.



BUT...  
I'VE NEVER  
EVEN...



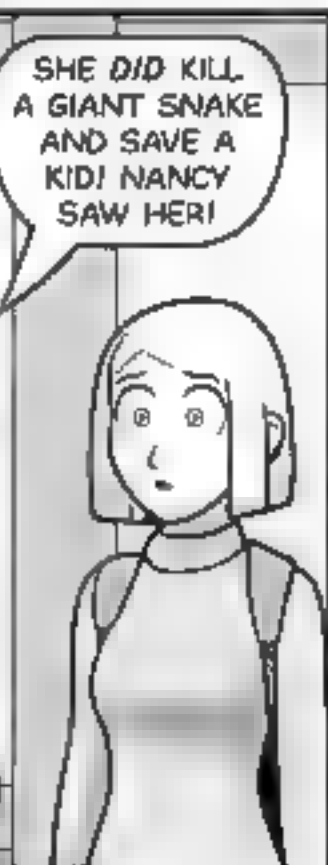
I'M A  
VIRGIN!



WHY DO BOYS  
FLOCK TO HER?  
BESIDES SLEEPING  
WITH HER.



THAT'S ALL  
THEY NEED  
SN'T IT



SHE DID KILL  
A GIANT SNAKE  
AND SAVE A  
KID! NANCY  
SAW HER!



DIANE WOULDN'T SPIT  
TO PUT OUT SOMEONE  
WHO WAS ON FIRE

WHY WOULD  
SHE? THAT  
WOULDN'T PUT  
OUT A FIRE

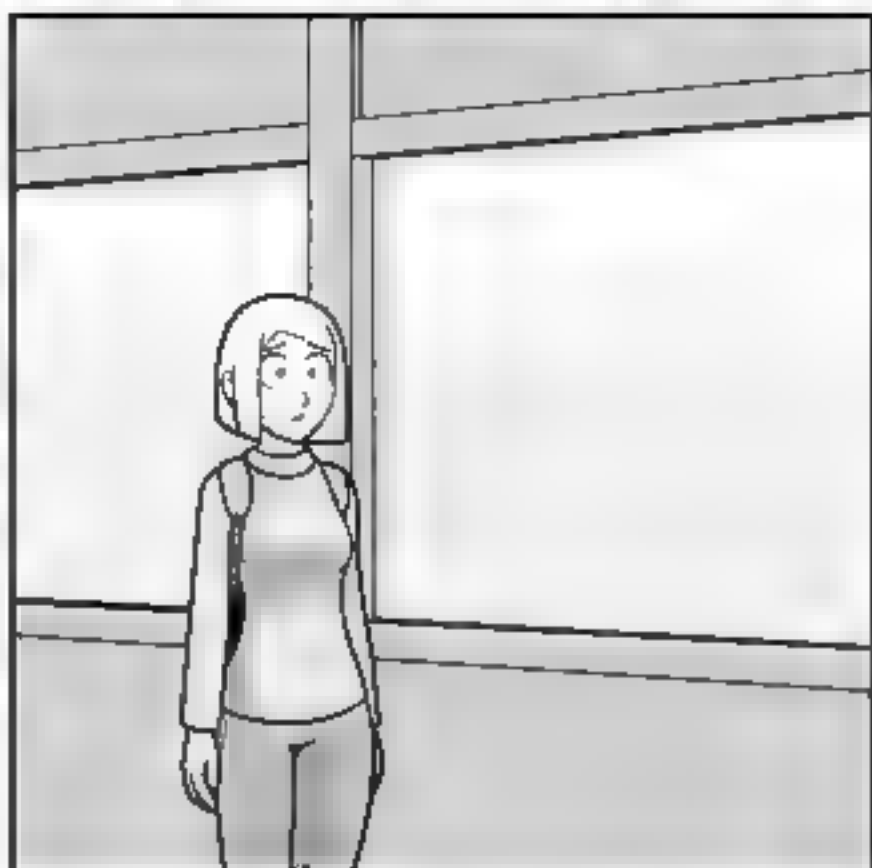


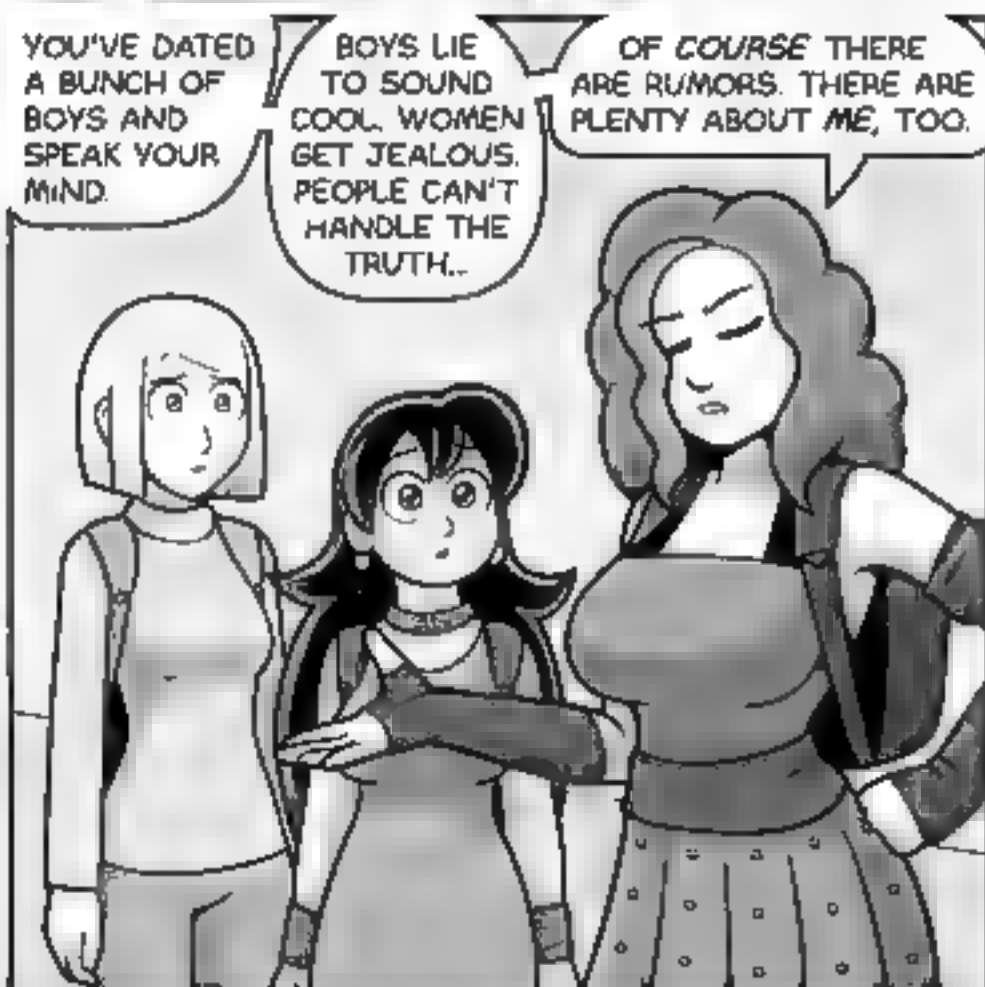
THAT'S NOT--MY POINT  
IS NANCY'S WRONG. WHO  
EVER SAVED THAT KID WAS  
SELFLESS AND COOL.

AND THAT'S  
NOT DIANE? I  
DON'T REALLY  
KNOW HER  
WELL



WHO WOULD  
WANT TO?













IS IT REALLY OKAY  
TO EXPECT THE  
BOYS TO PAY FOR  
EVERYTHING?

IT'S PART OF THE  
DEAL WITH DATING!  
IT'S ABOUT SHOWING  
THEY CAN BE A GOOD  
PROVIDER.

BY HAVING THEIR  
PARENTS PAY INSTEAD  
OF OUR PARENTS?

THEIR  
WILLINGNESS  
TO PAY SAYS  
SOMETHING!

IT SAYS THEY CARE MORE ABOUT US  
THAN STUFF THEY COULD GET MONEY  
FOR, LIKE GAMES OR WHATEVER.

SO, WHAT, YOU'RE JUST  
PLANNING NOT TO WORK  
WHEN YOU GROW UP?

OF COURSE I'M GOING  
TO WORK! I'M GOING TO  
BE A MOMMY!

PHBBBT...!

HEY! I'M GOING TO HAVE TWO  
KIDS THE ICKY WAY, AND ADOPT  
AT LEAST ANOTHER TWO!

SOMEONE'S GOING TO NEED TO STAY  
HOME WITH THE KIDS AND SOMEONE'S  
GOING TO NEED TO MAKE THE MONEY!

OKAY, OKAY  
ARE YOU GOING  
TO TELL YOUR  
DATE ABOUT  
YOUR BIG PLANS  
FOR HIM?

I DON'T KNOW IF CHAD'S  
"THE ONE" BUT THAT'S THE  
POINT! WE NEED TO DATE TO  
BETTER UNDERSTAND BOYS  
AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO  
LOOK FOR AND STUFF!

EVERY EXPERIENCE  
IS VALUABLE!

OF COURSE, CHAD  
IS REALLY NICE,  
AND HE SAID I  
WAS PRETTY

MAYBE WE ARE  
MEANT TO BE!

DIANE!  
DIANE! CHECK  
IT OUT!

I KNOW THIS  
REALLY SICK  
COMBO!

STWITCH

STILL

THE

THE

# LOVELY LOVE

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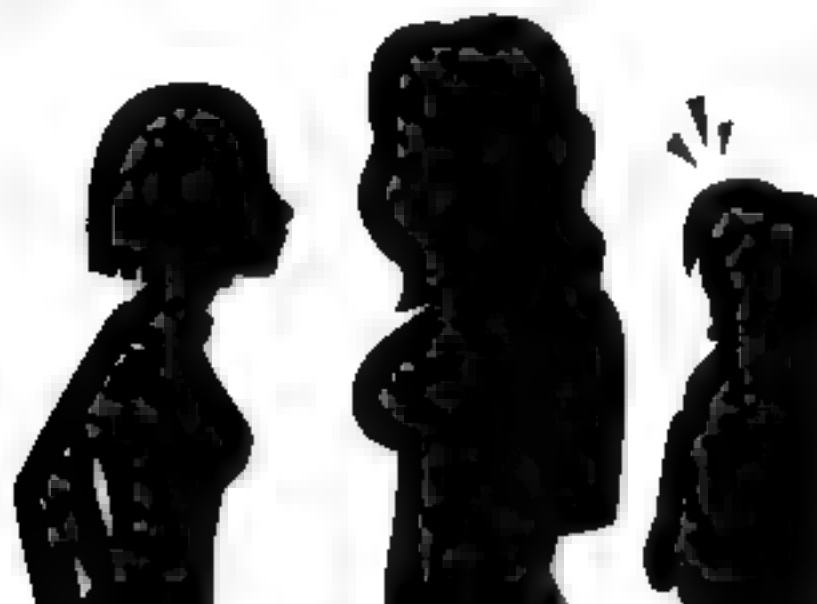
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**BRRRHHHNNNG!**







YOU WANT  
HER TO S.T  
WITH US?

PLEASE? SHE'S  
REALLY NICE BUT  
SHE SPENDS EVERY  
LUNCH PERIOD IN THE  
LIBRARY LIKE SOME  
FRIGHTENED MOUSE!

ALSO, SHE'S GOT  
AN ISSUE WHERE BOYS  
ARE GIVING HER TOO  
MUCH ATTENTION FOR  
REASONS I KNOW  
YOU'LL APPRECIATE

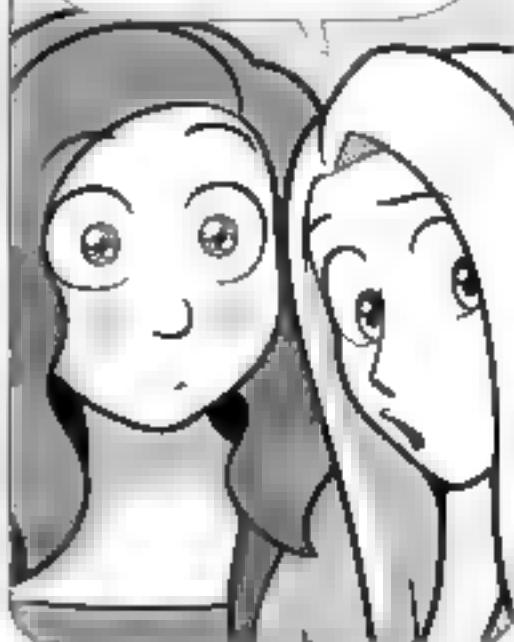


SITTING WITH US IS GOING  
TO HELP WITH THAT? WE  
ATTRACT BOYS EVEN WHEN  
WE'RE NOT ACTING GIRLY



WE CAN HELP HER GET  
USED TO THEM, AND LEARN  
HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM!

BES DES, YOU'RE  
HERE BOYS WILL WATCH  
THEIR MOUTHS WITH YOU  
AROUND YOU'RE LIKE A  
GUARDIAN ANGEL!



Y YEAH,  
OKAY

THANKS!



IT'S COOL, RHODA, AND  
YOU'RE WITH US NOW, SO  
YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY COOL!

Y'KNOW, INSTEAD  
OF SUBTLE COOL.



WANNA BE CLEAR YOU  
WERE ALREADY COOL

TH-THANKS,  
DIANE.





THAT NANASE? SHE'S AMAZING... SHE'S LIKE, SUPER MASCULINE AND SUPER GIRLY AT THE SAME TIME.

HOW DO YOU EVEN DO THAT?

DO YOU... LIKE HER?



WHAT?! N-NO! OF COURSE NOT!

SHE'S A GIRL! WITH GIRLY PARTS! SHE'S NOT THAT MASCULINE!

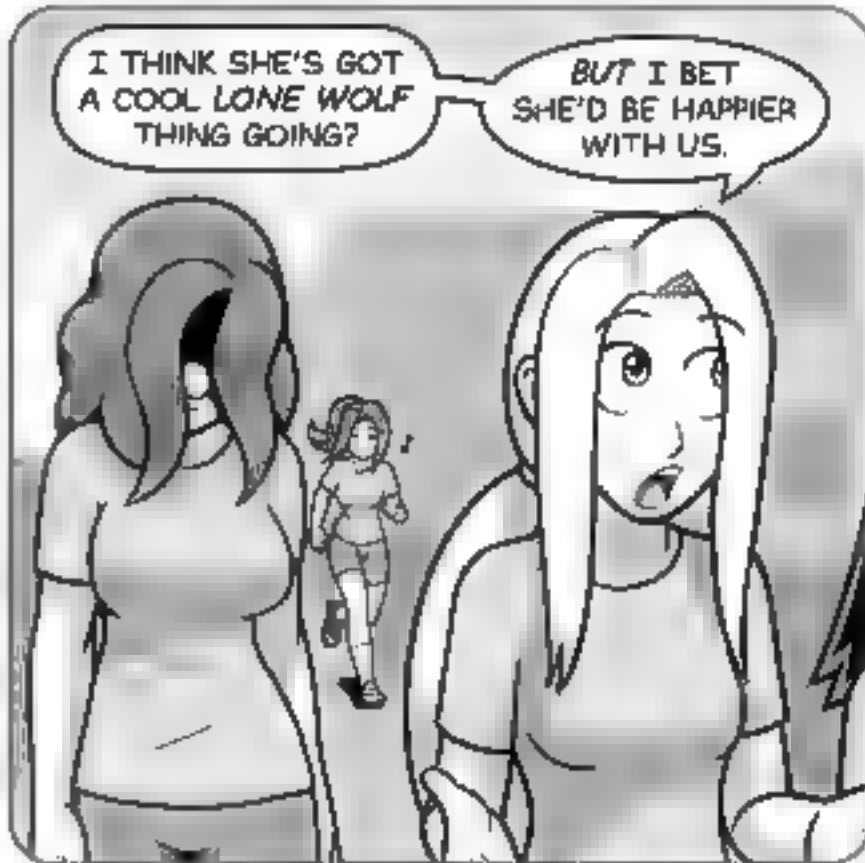
S-SORRY



B-BUT I THINK SHE SITS ALONE AT LUNCH?\* MAYBE WE SHOULD ASK HER TO SIT WITH US.

DO YOU THINK SHE'S LONELY?

\* True before she had a lunch period with Justin



I THINK SHE'S GOT A COOL LONE WOLF THING GOING?

BUT I BET SHE'D BE HAPPIER WITH US.



THE CLOSEST SHE'S EVER GOTTEN TO LIKING GIRLS IS THINKING NANASE IS COOL. SHE'S WAY LESS OBSERVANT THAN SHE THINKS SHE IS, AND IT'S WAY TOO LATE TO TELL HER.

GIVE UP ALREADY, LUCY

OKAY THEN, NANCY DREW  
HIT ME WHY DIDN'T I REALIZE  
THERE WOULD BE GROSS  
RUMORS ABOUT ME?

BECAUSE YOU GOT  
TO WHERE YOU ARE  
NOW FROM WHERE  
YOU WERE THEN OVER  
A SLOW BOIL

AT FIRST, YOU WANTED ROMANCE  
AND LOVE FOR YOU AND LUCY!

THEN YOU ACCEPTED YOU  
WERE ALL KIDS, AND THAT YOU  
SHOULD JUST ENJOY HANGING  
OUT AND HAVING FUN.

AND IT STARTED OUT THAT  
WAY! FOR A WHILE, YOU MADE  
FRIENDS WITH THE BOYS.

OVER TIME, DATING  
BECAME A HABIT IT WAS  
JUST A THING YOU AND  
LUCY DID AND THE BOYS  
KEPT LINING UP, SO YOU  
KEPT DOING IT

AND THE EXPLANATION  
FOR THEM LINING UP I  
CAME UP WITH WAS WE  
WERE JUST THAT COOL  
TO HANG OUT WITH..

BUT THE BOYS WOULD  
LOSE INTEREST, OR YOU'D LOSE  
INTEREST, OR SOMETHING WOULD  
HAPPEN, AND YOU STOPPED LETTING  
YOURSELF FEEL CLOSE TO THEM.

EXCEPT YOU  
WEREN'T THAT  
COOL TO HANG  
OUT WITH.

YOU BECAME JADED, RUDE,  
AND STARTED THINKING OF  
BOYS AS LITTLE MORE THAN  
WALLETS WHO FLATTER YOU  
AND DRIVE YOU PLACES.

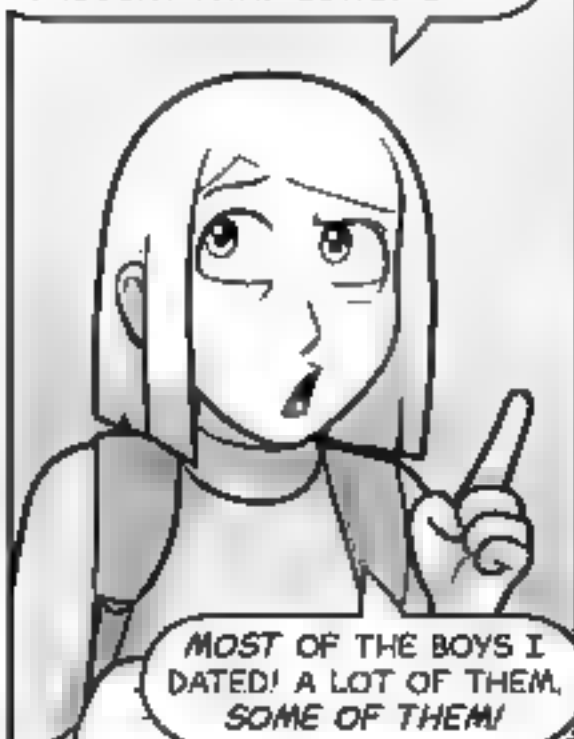
NO I DIDN'T!

YEAH YOU DID!

NUH-UH!

YEAH-HUH!

I MAY HAVE GOTTEN A LITTLE  
FULL OF MYSELF BUT I NEVER  
THOUGHT THAT LOWLY OF...



BUT NOT ALL  
OF THEM!



YOU CALLED NANASE'S GAY  
FRIEND A "DEFECTIVE MALE"  
BECAUSE HE WOULDN'T BUY  
GIRLS STUFF!



OH.

UH...



L-LOOK, THAT  
WAS A HORRIBLE THING  
TO SAY, BUT...



BACK  
THEN, I WAS  
UPSET ABOUT  
LEARNING RICK,  
MY SISTER'S  
FRIEND I  
LIKED, WAS  
GAY, AND...



I KNOW WHO RICK IS. DUMMY!

AND THERE'S  
NO EXCUSE!



YOU'RE  
RIGHT



OF COURSE I SUCK  
AT INTROSPECTION.

WHY WOULD I WANT TO  
KNOW MYSELF BETTER?

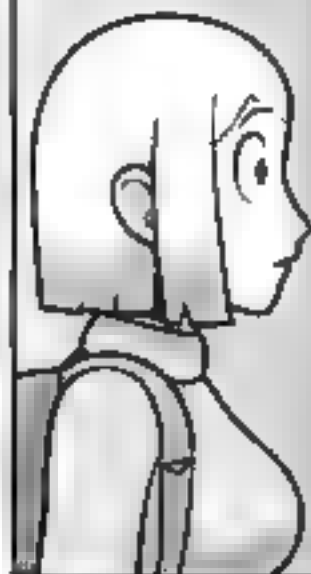




OKAY DIAL BACK THE SELF-PITY, DRAMA QUEEN. SOME PART OF YOU KNEW ALL THIS ALREADY



I DID?



UM, DUH? I'M YOU, REMEMBER?



HABITS DIE HARD, AND THERE'S PLENTY YOU DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT TO YOURSELF, BUT YOU'VE KNOWN SOMETHING WAS WRONG FOR A WHILE NOW

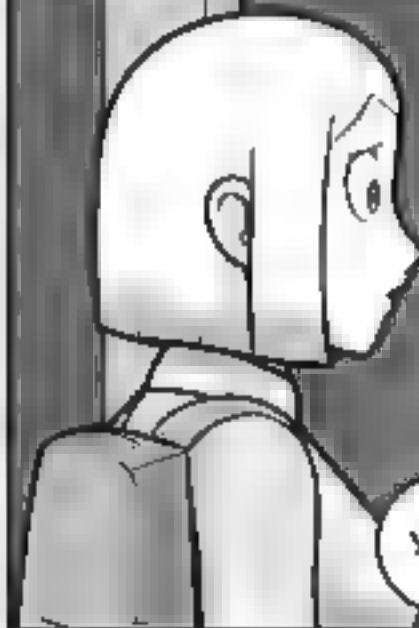


YOU'VE WANTED TO BE BETTER, AND YOU'VE WANTED ROMANCE AGAIN.



THAT'S ONE REASON YOU LIKE NANASE, AND THAT'S WHY ELLIOT INTERESTED YOU.

I DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS A GOODY-GOOD DORK AT FIRST



YOU KNEW HE DATED NANASE AND THEY STAYED FRIENDS. YOU ALSO KNEW HIS GIRLFRIEND WAS ALL TORN UP ABOUT BREAKING UP WITH HIM.



YOU HOPED FOR MORE THAN YOUR "SAP TO DATE" THOUGHTS FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

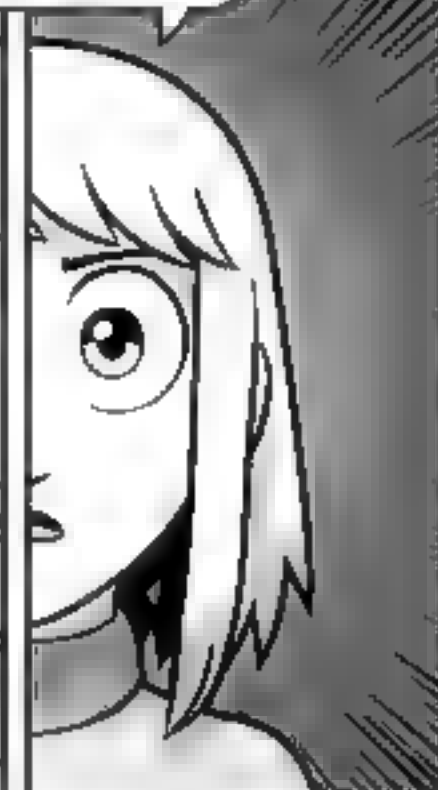
WANTING TO BE BETTER IS WHY YOU AGREED TO HELP WITH THAT MYSTERY ABOUT THE GRIFFINS.



YOU WANT TO REGAIN SOMETHING YOU'D LOST, AND IF YOU NEED FURTHER PROOF...



CONSIDER YOUR LATEST FASHION CHOICES.







In a hallway after the class Dane was late to...

LUCY'S RIGHT -  
I SHOULD'VE  
KNOWN THERE'D  
BE RUMORS, AND  
NOT JUST ABOUT  
HOW COOL WE  
WERE.

I'M GOOD  
AT DEDUCING  
THINGS! HOW  
DID I MISS  
THAT?!

BECAUSE YOU SUCK  
AT INTROSPECTION!

EH?!

YOU'RE GOOD AT ANALYZING  
OTHER PEOPLE, BUT AS SOON AS  
YOU'RE PART OF THE EQUATION?

YOU'RE A  
DUMMY!

HECK, YOU'RE SO BAD AT IT YOU  
HAVE TO IMAGINE A SECOND YOU  
JUST TO GET THE JOB DONE!

I HOPE YOU'RE READY TO  
VIVIDLY IMAGINE GETTING YELLED  
AT BY YOUR INNER CHILD, DORK,  
BECAUSE THAT'S HAPPENING!

I DON'T HAVE  
TO IMAGINE THIS  
NONSENSE.

OH YEAH?  
DON'T IMAGINE  
AN ELEPHANT!

SUP

DAMMIT!

HA!

As lunch time begins...

SO I HAVEN'T  
REALLY BEEN  
COOL TO A LOT  
OF THE BOYS  
I'VE DATED, AND  
I WANT TO BE  
BETTER, SO...

THE OBVIOUS  
THING TO DO IS  
TO APOLOGIZE

BUT THEN A BUNCH OF THEM HAVE BEEN  
SPREADING GROSS RUMORS ABOUT ME

AND I'M SURE SOME OF THEM ONLY ASKED  
ME OUT BECAUSE OF THOSE RUMORS, SO...

FORGET  
APOLOGIZING  
TO THEM.

EVERYONE ELSE...  
THINGS WERE SO  
CASUAL THAT MOST  
OF US MORE JUST  
STOPPED GOING OUT  
THAN FULL ON  
TEARFUL BREAK UPS...

THAT MAKES  
APOLOGIZING  
WEIRD, ESPECIALLY  
IF THEY'RE COOL  
WITH HOW THINGS  
WOUND UP

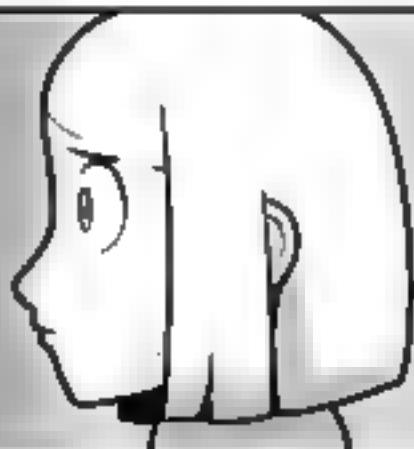
IT'D BE ALL  
ABOUT ME, NOT  
ABOUT THEM.  
EGO EGO EGO.

SCREW IT THE ONLY GUY I'M  
SURE I SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO  
ISN'T EVEN SOMEONE I DATED.

NO POINT IN DENYING THE RUMORS,  
EITHER. PEOPLE ARE GONNA BELIEVE  
WHAT THEY WANT TO BELIEVE AND.

...AND THOSE RUMORS  
AREN'T JUST ABOUT ME.

I CAN'T  
SPEAK FOR  
LUCY AND SHE  
WOULDN'T  
WANT ME TO



BUT WHAT  
PEOPLE THINK  
ABOUT ME  
AFFECTS WHAT  
THEY THINK  
ABOUT HER!



I MIGHT NOT BE AS SMART OR  
CLEVER AS I THOUGHT I WAS...



BUT IF  
THERE'S ONE  
THING I DO  
EXCEL AT

**...IT'S BEING  
AN ATTENTION  
GRABBING  
CHEERLEADER!**



HEY! LISTEN!



I AM DIANE!  
SOME OF YOU  
KNOW ME AND/OR  
HAVE DATED ME!

TO EVERYONE  
ELSE, DON'T WORRY!  
I'LL SHUT UP SOON  
ENOUGH!

D ANE?

WAT THAT  
DIANE?

MEH.  
SO THIS  
GAME



A LOT OF  
PEOPLE DIDN'T  
RECOGNIZE ME  
TODAY WITH  
MY NEW  
HAIRCUT...

...AND I GOT  
TO HEAR A  
WHOLE LOT  
OF TALKING  
BEHIND MY  
BACK TO MY  
FACE!



AND A LOT  
OF THAT WHAT  
I HEARD? I  
DESERVED IT! I  
EARNED IT BY  
BEING SELF-  
CENTERED, AND  
I NEEDED TO  
HEAR IT!

AND YES,  
I'M AWARE OF  
THE HYPOCRISY  
OF ANNOUNCING  
THAT TO A  
CROWDED  
CAFETERIA.  
**BUT!**



THERE'S A  
REPUTATION I  
HAVEN'T  
TECHNICALLY  
EARNED, AND  
THAT'S  
SLEEPING  
AROUND!

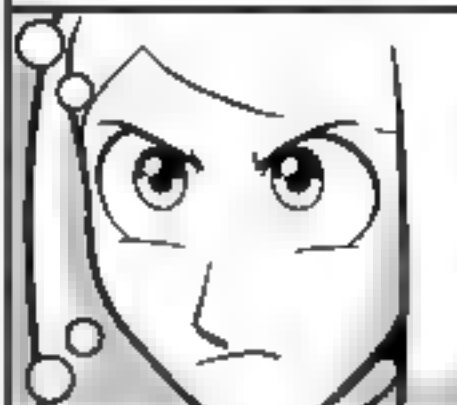


I AM A VIRGIN!

ANYONE WHO'S DATED ME KNOWS  
WE HAVEN'T DONE IT, AND ANYONE  
BRAGGING ABOUT IT IS LYING!



I'M GOING TO GET MADE SO MUCH FUN OF FOR THIS, BUT SCREW IT MY REP'S ALREADY GARBAGE, AND THE BOYS WHO LIED KNOW THEY LIED, AND THIS WILL MAKE THEM SUSPECT THE OTHERS OF LYING AS WELL.



AND THAT WILL EXTEND TO CLAIMS ABOUT.

YOU TOLD ME YOU SLEPT WITH HER!

YOU TOLD ME YOU DID!



WAIT, WHAT

I'M A VIRGIN! I JUST DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE THINKING I WAS THE ONLY ONE!

WELL, YOU'RE NOT! I AM, TOO! AND I ONLY SAID IT BECAUSE STEVE SA'D SHE WAS EASY!



HEY, I DIDN'T START THAT RUMOR! I JUST PERPETUATED IT!

AS DID I, FOR GOSSIP'S FUN!

HEY DID YOU HEAR WHAT DAVE DID?



I DON'T KNOW DIANE, BUT I'M A VIRGIN, TOO. AND I'M SICK OF LYING ABOUT IT! WHEN I FINALLY SCORE, I WANT TO BRAG ABOUT IT FOR REAL!

ME TOO! I'M TIRED OF KEEPING MY STORIES STRAIGHT!

IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE



I'M NOT A VIRGIN. BUT UH YEAH. I MIGHT'VE LIED ABOUT DIANE

EVERYONE WAS DOING IT!

TRULY, YOU ARE THE VICTIM HERE.



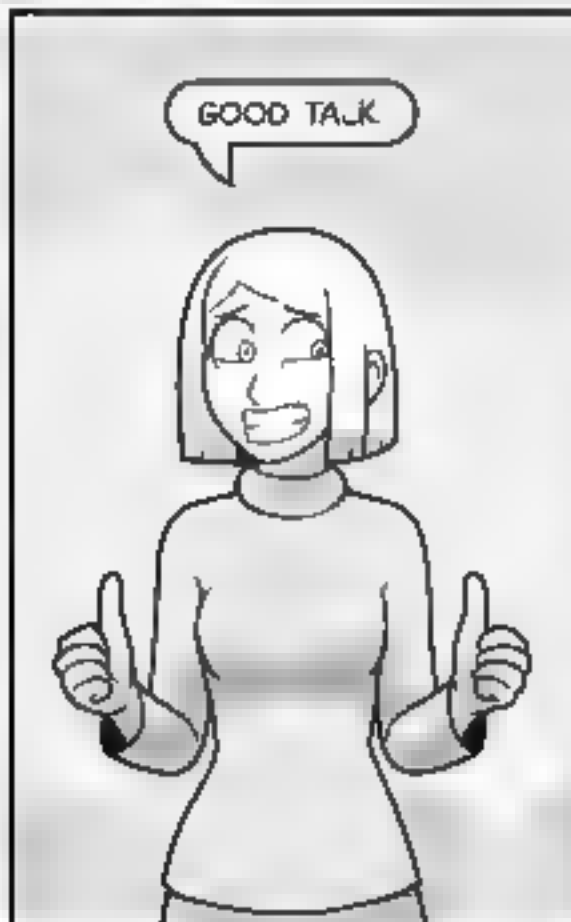
I'M NOT A VIRGIN, EITHER!

WHAT?!

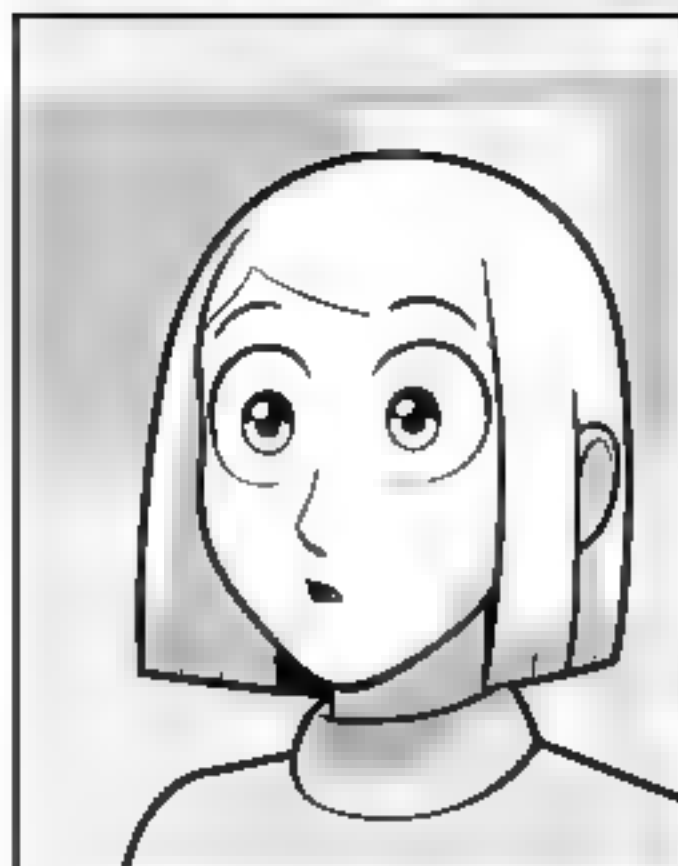
I LIED BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT PEOPLE JUDGING ME!

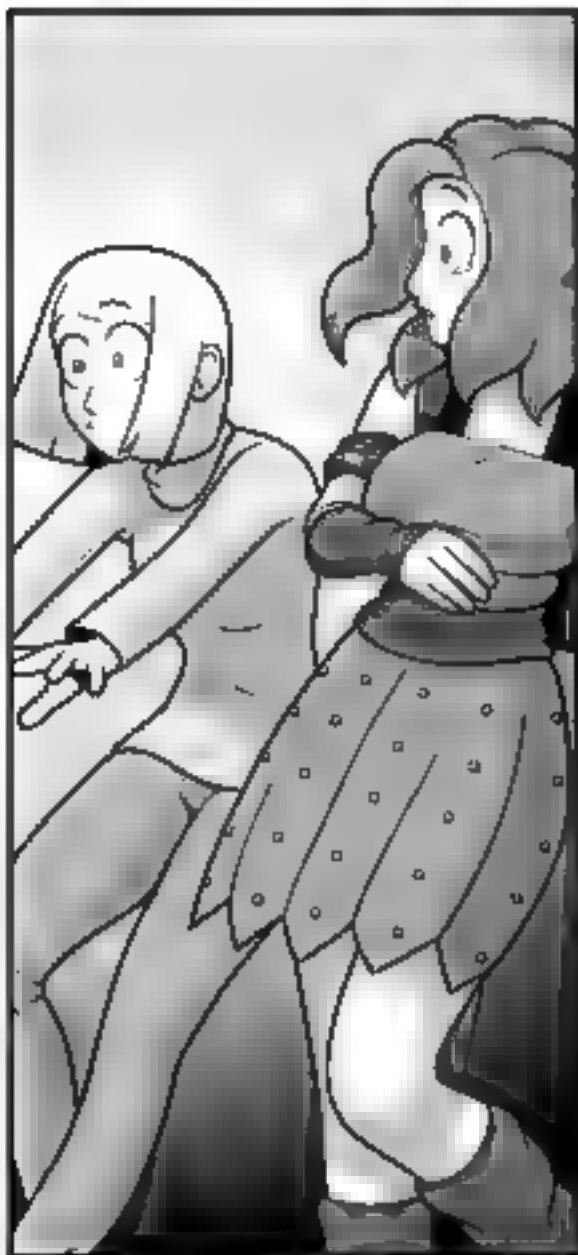
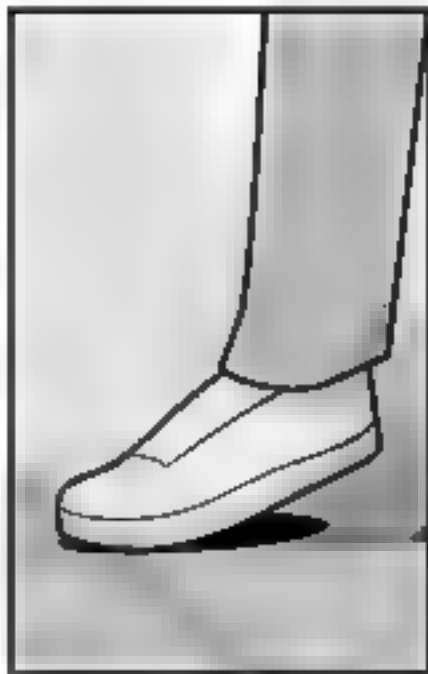
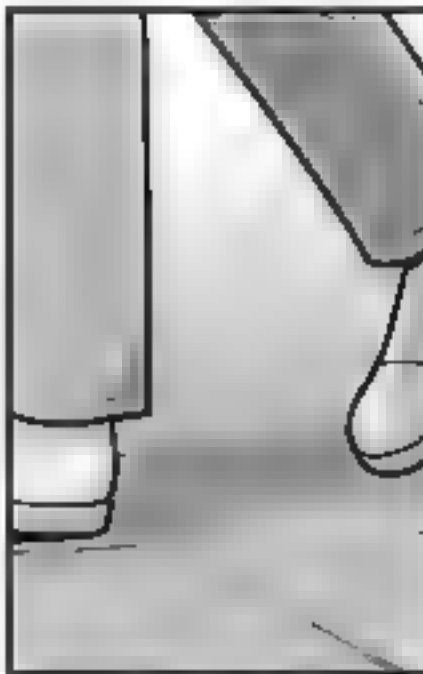
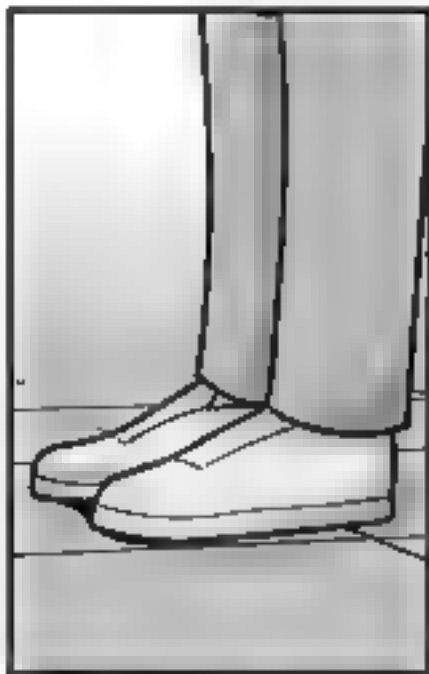


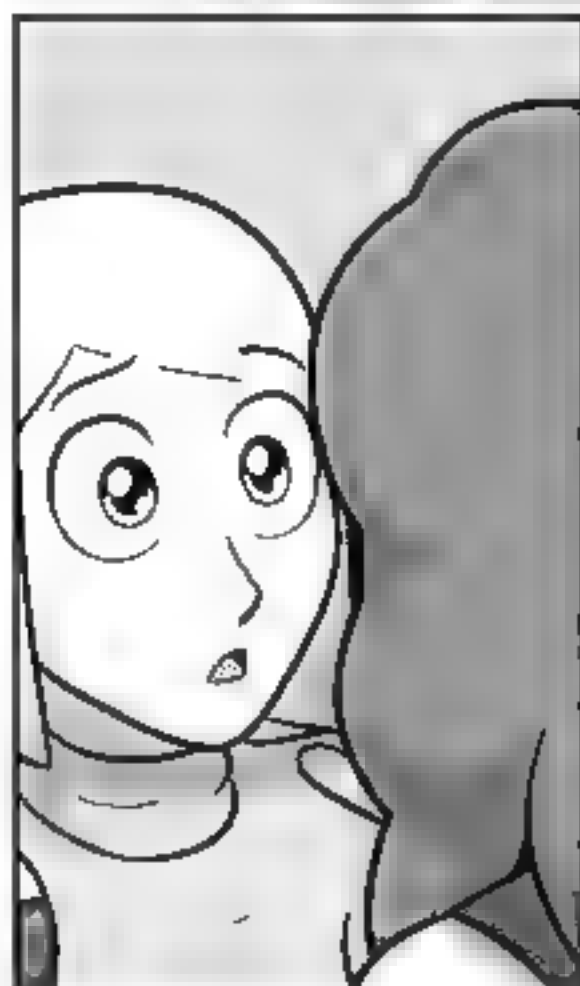


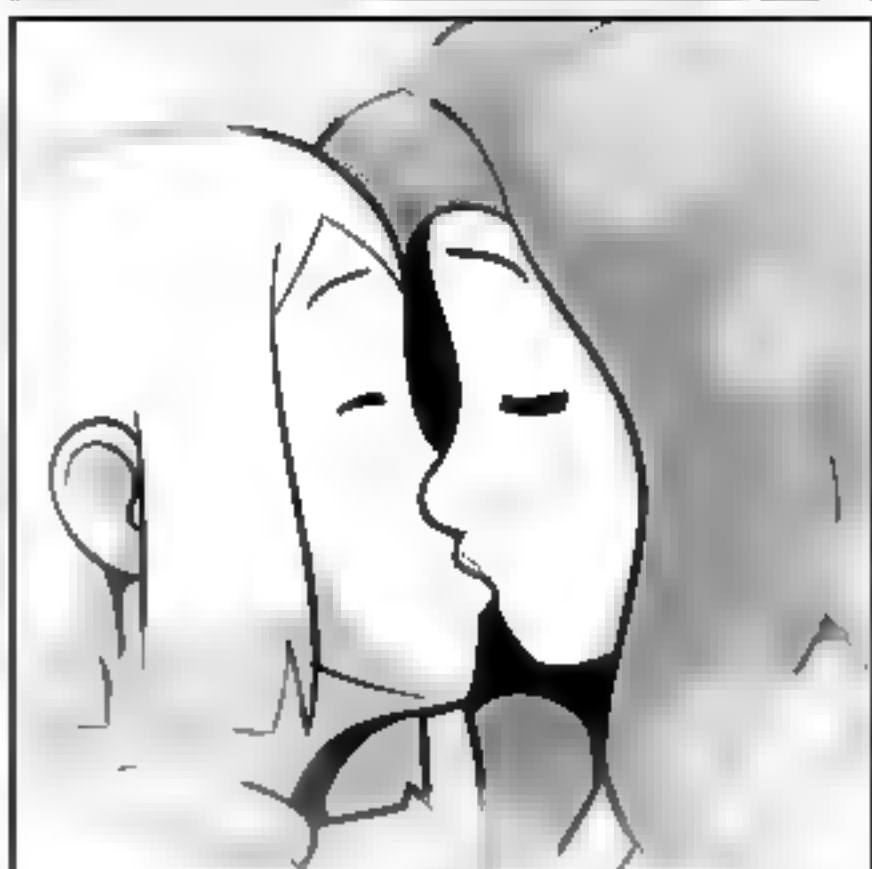




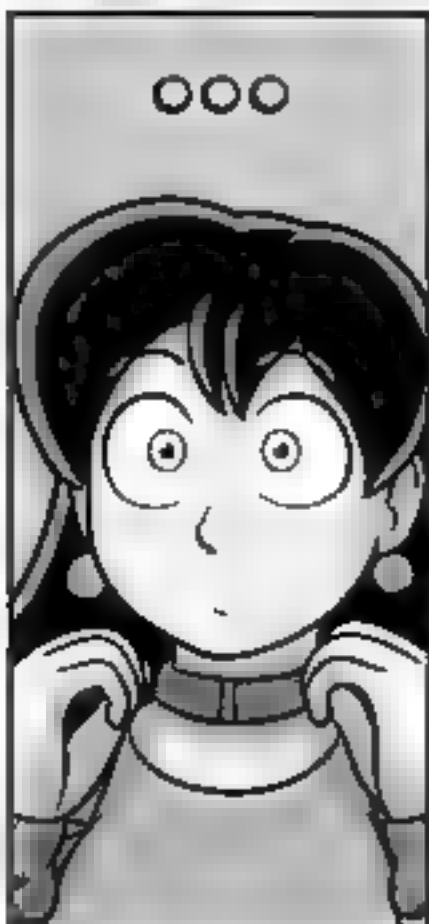














After Lunch.

WITH ALL THE THINGS I'VE MISSED... WITH EVERYTHING I'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT.

MAYBE... MAYBE MY THEORY ABOUT WHY MY MOTHER DIDN'T TELL RAVEN SHE WAS PREGNANT IS WRONG, TOO.

MAYBE SHE JUST CHOSE NOT TO FOR REASONS OF HER OWN.

OF COURSE, IF MY DEDUCTION ISN'T WRONG, MY FATHER HAD A ONE NIGHT STAND WHILE DISGUISED.

...AND MY MOTHER, MOST LIKELY A YOUNG WOMAN AT THE TIME, HAD NO WAY OF CONTACTING HIM.

HE'S PROBABLY NOT READY TO TALK, ANYWAY HE JUST LOST HIS MOTHER..

MY GRANDMOTHER...

I SHOULD KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR JASON. I WAS GOING TO APOLOGIZE TO JASON.

AND MAYBE SUSAN WANTS TO HANG OUT AGAIN AFTER SCHOOL. WE CAN TALK ABOUT ME AND LUCY!



# The Legend of Diane THE END

Story comics will return November 12

(EGSNP comics still Mon-Weds-Friday, Sketchbooks Tues-Thurs)



Months ago ..



I AM A BOY BUT I'M TRANS, OKAY? DON'T TELL ANYONE!



Nearly two weeks ago ..

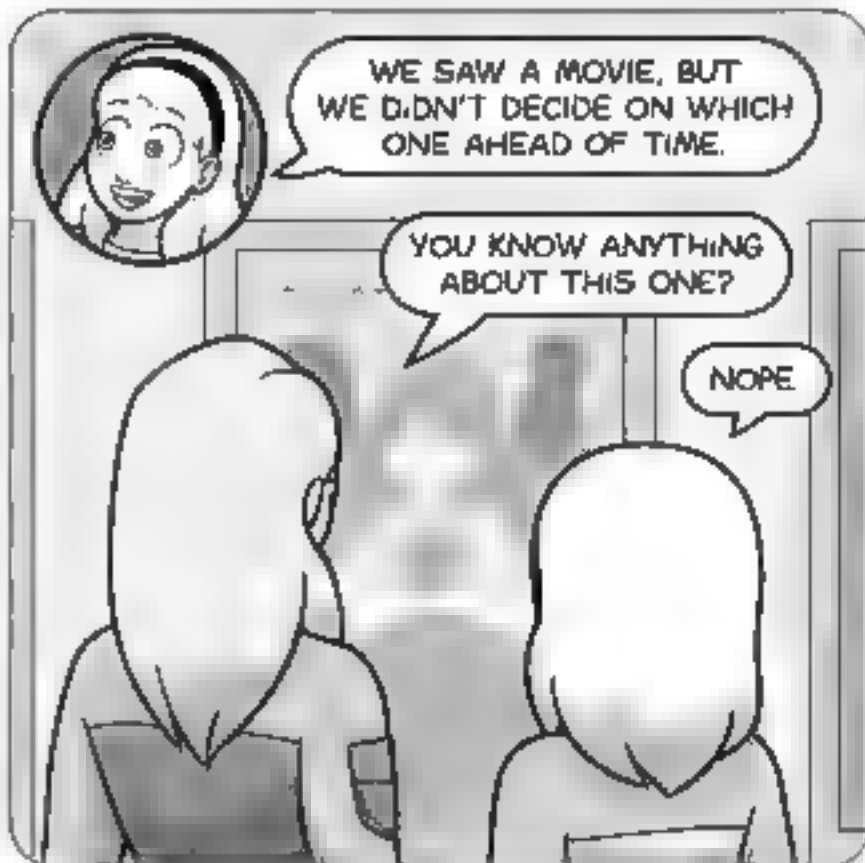


# The Secret of Sam

The Wednesday after Mag c technically chose not to change







WE SAW A MOVIE, BUT WE DIDN'T DECIDE ON WHICH ONE AHEAD OF TIME.

YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THIS ONE?

NOPE.



I'M GUESSING SHE'S THE PROTAGONIST THOUGH, AND SHE NEEDS TO DO...

...SOMETHING WITH THAT GLOWING BOX SHE'S HOLDING?



IT COULD BE A COMPASS! POINTING NOT NORTH, BUT TO HER DESTINATION.

WHERE SHE HAS TO FIND TREASURE BEFORE THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND HER GET IT, FIRST!



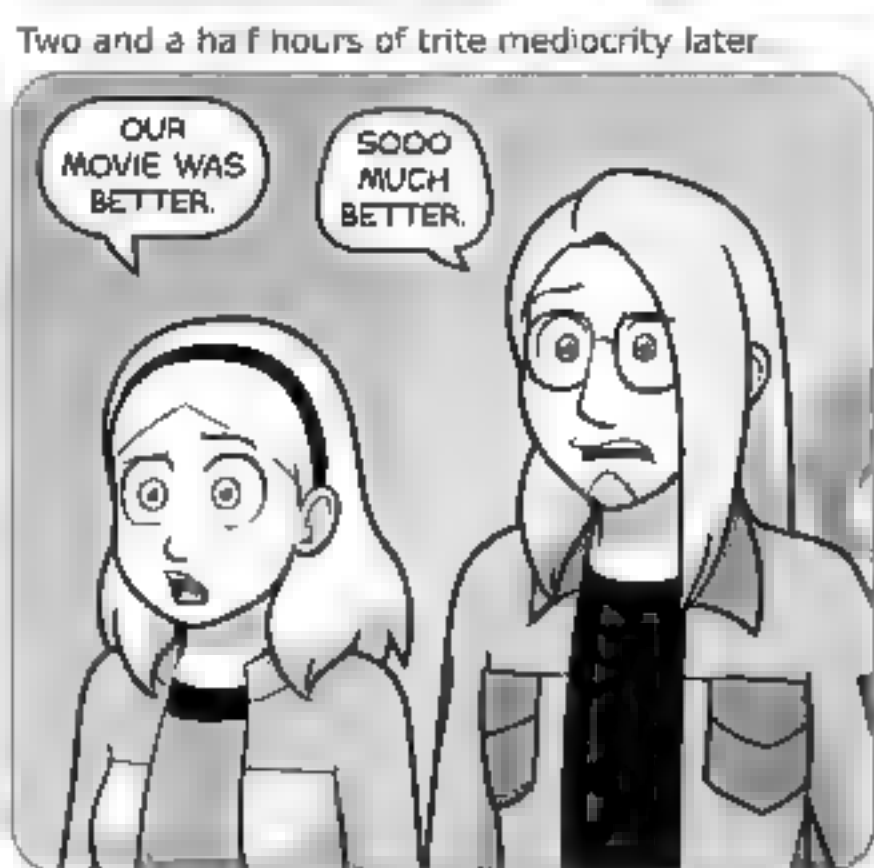
BUT SHE CAN'T JUST GO DIRECTLY TO WHERE SHE'S GOING, BECAUSE THEY'VE GOT THEIR OWN MAGIC COMPASS, AND IT ALWAYS POINTS TOWARDS HER!



SO SHE HAS TO STAY AS FAR AHEAD AS POSSIBLE, AND PUT OBSTACLES BETWEEN HER AND THEM.

...AND HELPING HER IS ALL THESE OTHER PEOPLE ON THE POSTER!

THOUGH ONE OF THEM'S DEFINITELY GOING TO BETRAY HER AT SOME POINT, AND...



OUR MOVIE WAS BETTER.

SOOO MUCH BETTER.

Two and a half hours of trite mediocrity later







IT WASN'T LYING TO SAY SAM MIGHT JUST BE TAKING THINGS SLOWLY THAT COULD TOTALLY BE TRUE!

I JUST OMITTED WHAT I THOUGHT THE ACTUAL REASON FOR NOT HUGGING WAS, AND OH DEAR GOD I LIED BY OMISSION TO MY BELOVED FRIEND SARAH.



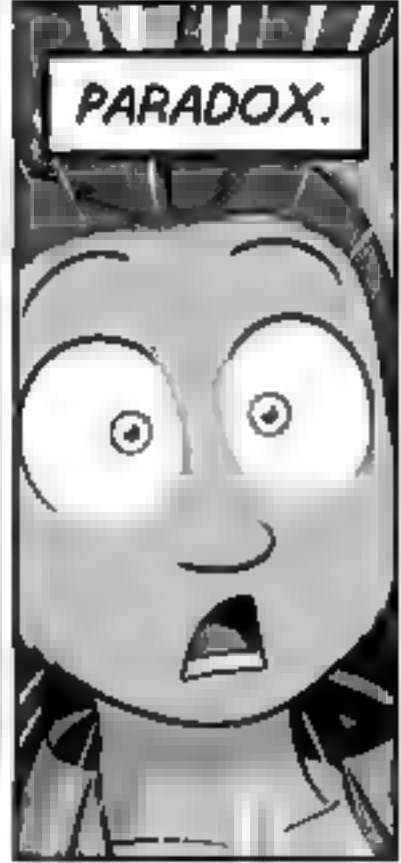
STOP THAT, GRACE. THEY'VE ONLY SEEN EACH OTHER TWICE THE MOST INTIMATE THING THEY'VE DONE IS VILLAINOUSLY WHISPER OVER POPCORN WHILE IN A MOVIE THEATER.

SAM'S UNDER NO OBLIGATION TO TELL SARAH HE'S TRANS, AND SARAH HERSELF WOULD TELL YOU NOT TO TELL HER!



WAIT, HOW WOULD SHE DO THAT? TIME TRAVEL? I TELL SARAH, AND THEN SHE TRAVELS BACK IN TIME TO STOP ME?

BUT THAT WOULD...



PARADOX.



UNIVERSE-IMPLODING-FUTURE-SARAH IS RIGHT

I HATE KEEPING THINGS FROM SARAH, AND I KNOW SHE WOULDN'T BE A JERK ABOUT SAM BEING TRANS BUT SAM DOESN'T KNOW THAT, AND IT'S HIS PRIVATE BUSINESS TO SHARE OR NOT SHARE



HECK, I SHOULDN'T EVEN KNOW HE'S TRANS. I ONLY KNOW BECAUSE...

HANG ON. I DO KNOW, AND HE KNOWS I KNOW



TELLING SARAH WOULD BE BAD...

...BUT MAYBE I CAN HELP THEM BOTH OUT BY TALKING TO SAM!



I KNOW YOU CAN'T COME TO GET THEM, SIR. BUT YOU AGREED TO BE CHARGED FOR THE COMICS WE HELD FOR YOU IF YOU TOOK TOO LONG TO COME GET THEM.



ALL I HAVE TO DO IS BE ENTHUSIASTICALLY APPROVING OF SARAH AND SAM'S FRIENDSHIP WHILE THEY'RE HERE TONIGHT! THAT'S IT!

SAM KNOWS THAT I KNOW, SO THAT ALONE SHOULD HELP HIM BE MORE COMFORTABLE WITH SARAH!



WE TRIED CALLING BEFORE CHARGING YOU, BUT WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D MOVED TO SEATTLE AND CHANGED YOUR PHONE NUMBER.

WE DIDN'T KNOW BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T TELL US



EXCEPT... SAM DOESN'T KNOW ME THAT WELL... DOES HE? IF I'M TOO SMILEY, HE MIGHT THINK I'M MAKING FUN OF HIM.

I'M VERY SMILEY DO I NEED TO TONE THAT DOWN?



WE DON'T HAVE A DATABASE THAT AUTOMATICALLY KNOWS WHEN PEOPLE HAVE MOVED, SIR. THAT'S A LITTLE "BIG BROTHER" FOR A COMIC SHOP.

HELLO?



BUT WAIT... IF I'M NOT SMILEY ENOUGH, HE'LL THINK I'M WORRIED ABOUT THE TWO OF THEM HANGING OUT!



GUY JUST MOVES TO SEATTLE WITHOUT CANCELING STUFF HERE

PEOPLE DON'T THINK THINGS THROUGH, DO THEY?



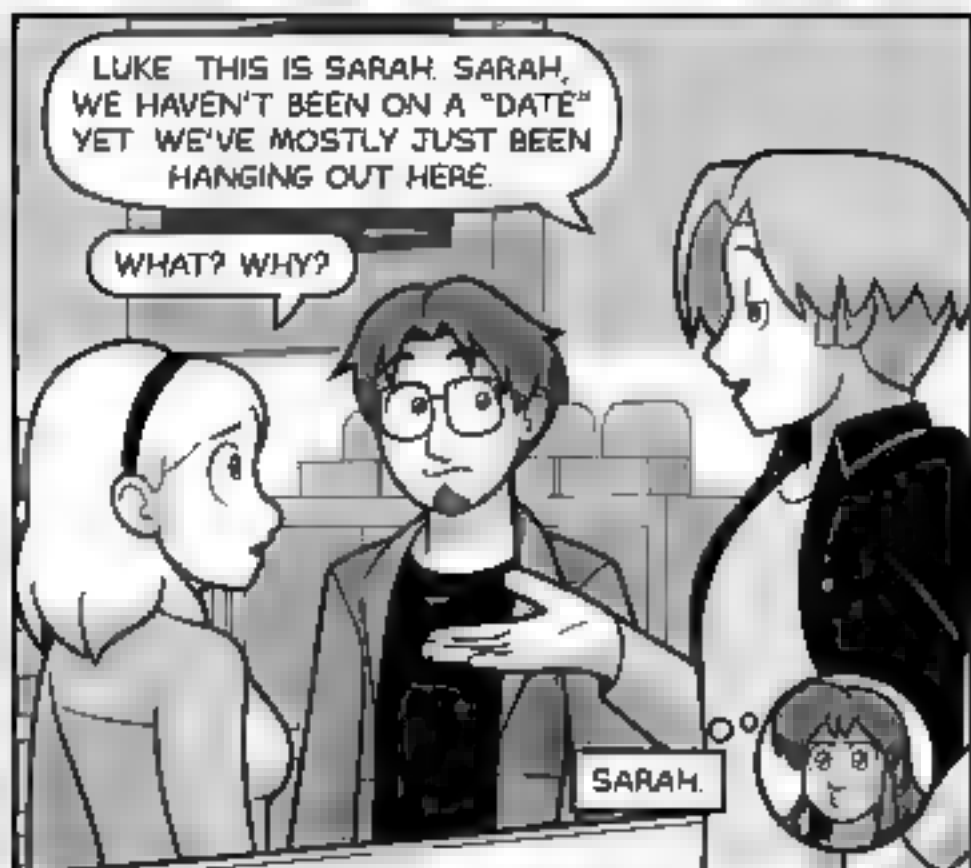
PLANNING IS HARD, JUSTIN!











WE'VE BOTH BEEN BUSY,  
AND I WAS THINKING "MY  
FRIDAY NIGHTS ARE ALWAYS  
GOING TO BE FREE" WHEN  
MY UNCLE AND I WORKED  
OUT MY MOST RECENT  
SCHEDULE HERE

YOUR  
UNCLE RUNS  
THIS PLACE?

YES. AND I WAS DETERMINED TO  
PROVE I DESERVED THE JOB. IT  
MIGHT HAVE AFFECTED MY WORK  
ETHIC TO THE POINT THAT OTHER  
PLACES WANT TO HIRE ME.

MY OFFER  
STANDS,  
JUSTIN!

I'M HAPPY  
HERE,  
TENSAIDED!

BAH!

SURELY HE'D  
GIVE YOU A  
NIGHT OFF

OF COURSE HE WOULD! BUT AN OFFICIAL  
TOURNAMENT JUDGE NEEDS TO BE HERE FOR  
A TOURNAMENT TO COUNT IN THE GLOBAL  
RANKINGS, SO I HAD TO WORK THINGS OUT  
WITH GIL. I'VE GOT NEXT FRIDAY OFF

GIL?  
WHO'S  
GIL?

HE RUNS THE SUNDAY  
TOURNAMENTS. YOU'VE  
NEVER MET GIL?

I GUESS I NEVER  
REALLY THOUGHT  
ABOUT HOW IT CAN'T  
JUST BE YOU  
GEORGE AND GRACE  
WORKING HERE...

YOU'VE AT LEAST MET  
GORDON, RIGHT?

I MEAN, I MIGHT  
HAVE? YOU GUYS JUST  
WEAR A VARIETY OF  
BLACK SHIRTS LIKE  
THEY'RE UNIFORMS.

UNCLE JIM SAYS  
IT'S "BUSINESS  
CASUAL"

Later, during the tournament...

I PROBABLY  
SHOULD JUST  
LEAVE SAM  
ALONE.

OF COURSE  
THERE IS ANOTHER  
REASON TO TALK  
TO HIM...



NO NO NO! WE'RE NOT HAVING  
THIS INTERNAL DEBATE AGAIN!

BUT MEEE!



EVEN I, THE EMOTIONLESS  
LOGICAL CENTER OF GRACE  
WOULD BE OVERJOYED TO  
GIVE SAM ZAPPY MAGIC  
STUFF OF GOODNESS.

...BUT WE  
CAN'T JUST  
GO HANDING OUT  
STUFF LIKE THAT  
TO PEOPLE WE  
BARELY KNOW!



TEDD'S GOAL IS FOR  
EVERYONE TO BENEFIT  
FROM MAGIC, AND HE'S  
BEING GIVEN A LAB AND  
FUNDING THAT WILL HELP  
MAKE THAT HAPPEN!

AND WHAT  
HAPPENS IF IT'S  
DISCOVERED  
MAGICAL STUFF  
OF HIS IS BEING  
DISTRIBUTED...?



IT ALL GETS  
CONFISCATED, TEDD  
LOSES THE LAB AND HE  
LOSES HIS BEST CHANCE  
TO HELP MILLIONS OF  
OTHER PEOPLE

EXACTLY WE HAVE TO  
CONSIDER THE LONG TERM,  
TEDD'S WELLBEING, AND THE  
NEEDS OF THE MANY



IF NOT  
WORSE

YEAH. BUT IF SAM FINDS  
OUT WE HAVE MAGIC TRANSFOR-  
MATION STUFF BY ACCIDENT...!



IF IT'S AN ACTUAL  
ACCIDENT? POTENTIAL  
LOOPHOLE, YES.

ACTUAL  
ACCIDENT  
RIGHT  
DARN IT



HUG SENSES. JIGGLING!

DRAMATIC NON-  
PRESCRIPTION  
COUNTER LEAP!

HUG

ARE YOU OKAY, SARAH? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

DO I NEED TO LITERALLY THROW  
SOMEONE OUT OF HERE?

NO I'M FINE,  
IT'S JUST ..

PLAYING AGA N MADE  
ME THINK ABOUT TWO  
WEEKS AGO AND I

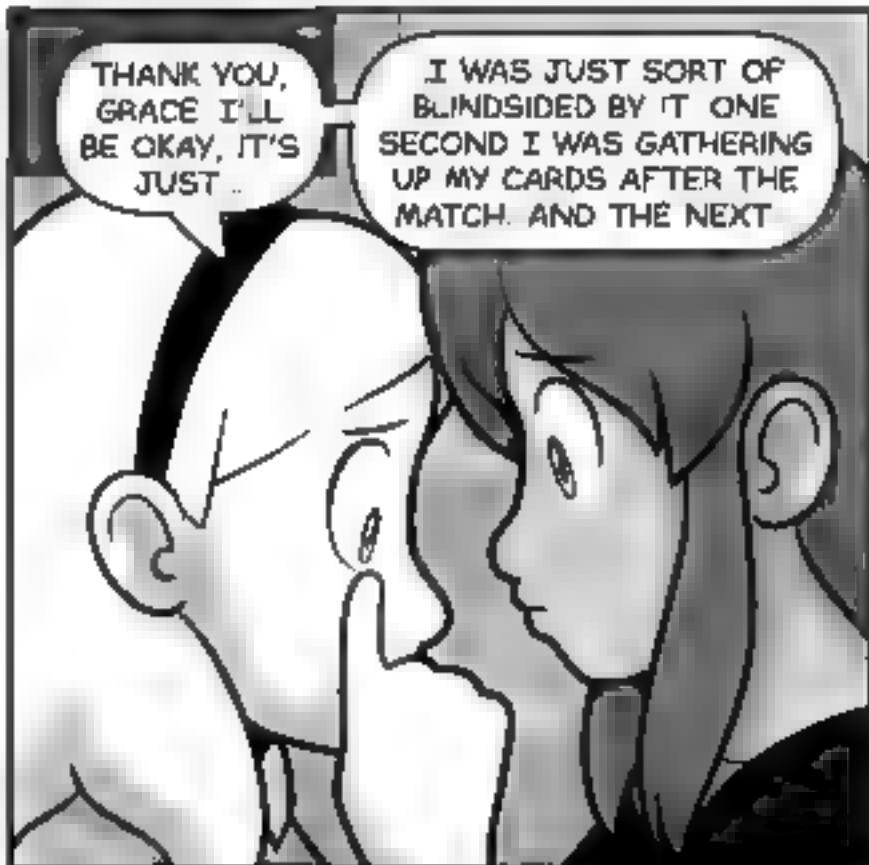
I STARTED THINKING  
ABOUT WHEN BOX

WHEN PANDORA  
MUST HAVE GIVEN ME A  
MAGIC MARK AND

AND

SNIFF







A little while after the tournament, only Grace, Sarah, Justin, and Tedd remain in the store.

They talk casually as Justin and Grace clean up after the tournament

**But suddenly...**



**OH NOES!**



WHAT HAPPENED?

SOMEONE LEFT A BAG OF DICE ON THE EDGE OF THIS SHELF AND IT FELL OPEN! THERE'S DICE EVERYWHERE!



WE'LL HELP GET THEM.

**NO, DON'T!** THERE WERE D-FOURS IN THAT BAG! THEY'RE LIKE CALTROPS!



WE ARE WEARING SHOES.

OH, RIGHT WELL, WE STILL SHOULDN'T STEP ON THEM. IT'S JUST THE FOUR OF US HERE RIGHT?

YEAH?



THEN I'VE GOT THIS.





OH MY GOD. YOU'RE DOING THE JEDI SOLUTION.

YOU'RE GOING TO USE TELEKINESIS!



WHAT? NO, THAT'D BE MORE DIFFICULT THAN JUST PICKING THEM UP

I JUST SENSE... MORE WHEN I HAVE MY ANTENNAE OUT

I'M MORE AWARE OF WHAT'S AROUND ME AND IT'S EASIER TO FIND AND KEEP TRACK OF THINGS.



IT'S SUPER COOL! YOU CAN THROW SOMETHING AT THE BACK OF HER HEAD. AND SHE'LL KNOW BEFORE IT HITS HER!

NOT SOON ENOUGH TO DODGE THOUGH GOT YELLED AT SHOULDN'T'VE BROUGHT IT UP SORRY



OH.

THAT'S SORT OF JEDI.

I GUESS.



I CAN ALSO "FEEL" THE DICE? IT'S HARD TO DESCRIBE, BUT... IF I FOCUS, IT SORTA FEELS LIKE TOUCHING THEM?



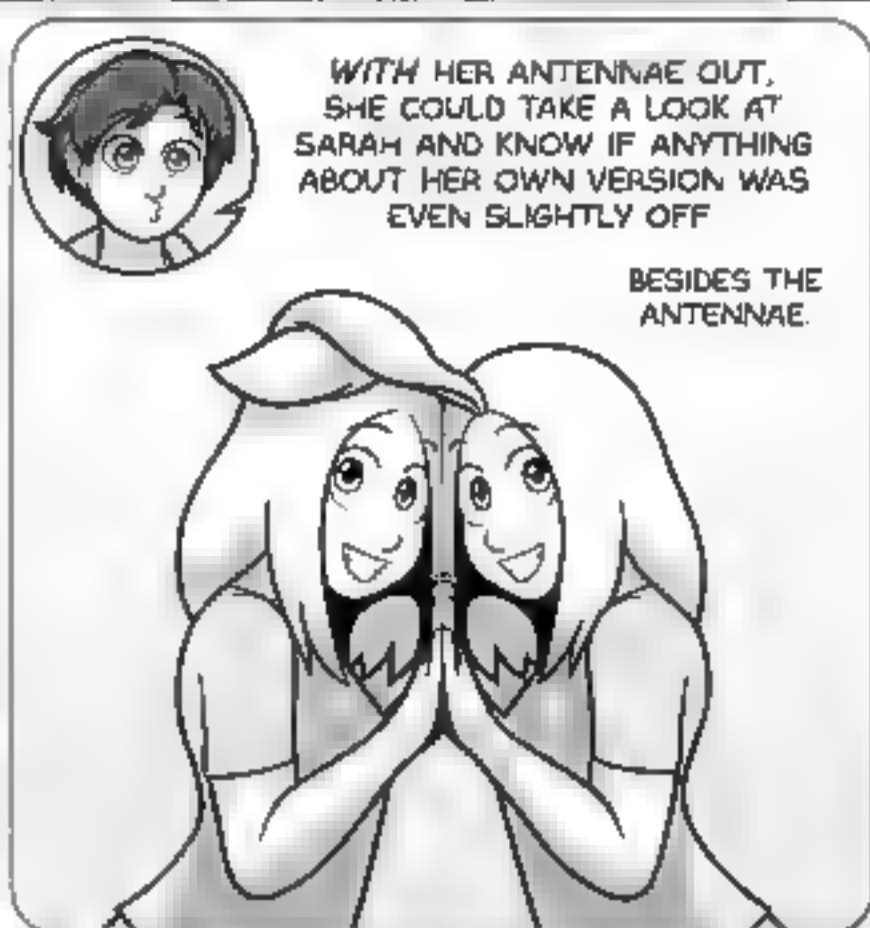
ANYWAY SINCE THE NUMBERS ARE INDENTATIONS, I CAN TELL YOU THERE'S A D-TWENTY BY SARAH THAT I'M... PRETTY SURE ROLLED A TWENTY?

IT'D BE WAY EASIER WITH A SIX-SIDED.



YEPI TWENTY!

THAT'S SO JED



Still late that night, the college dorms...





Next Story Comic Friday! Happy Holidays, Y'all!



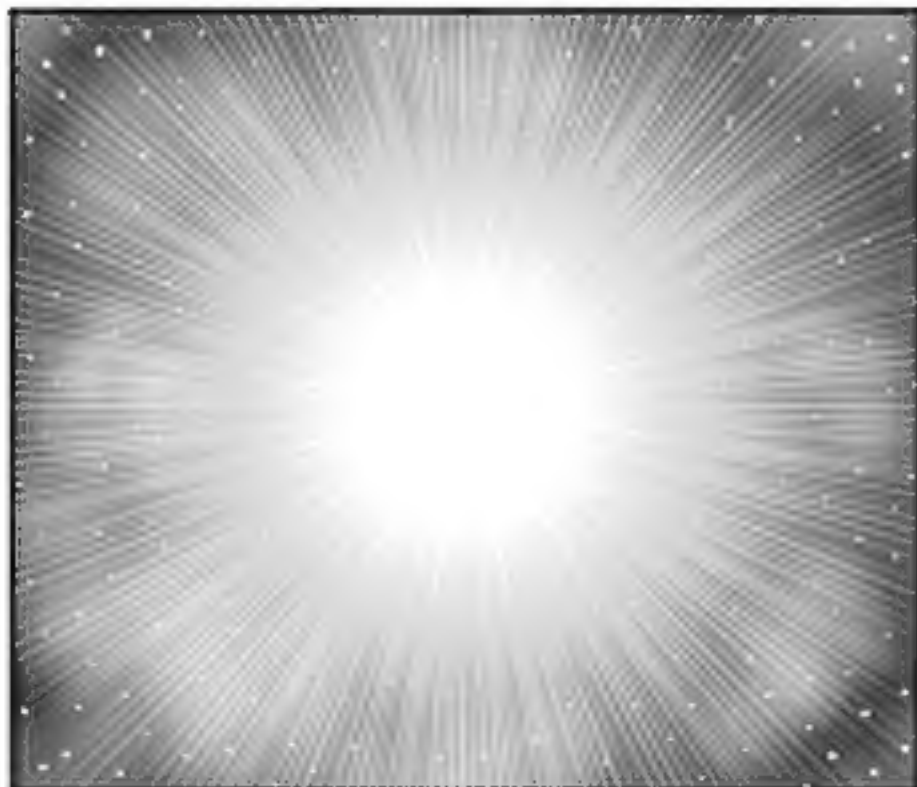








An unknown time, an unknowable place...



Sister 3 - The End

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LAB?

FUNDING?

ME?



I WOULD NEVER CONSIDER SOMEONE AS YOUNG AS YOU FOR SOMETHING LIKE THIS, BUT YOU ARE *LITERALLY* THE ONLY SEER I KNOW OF WHO IS NOT A FOREIGN CHILD, AND I BELIEVE A SEER WILL BE NECESSARY.

WHAT'S MORE, YOU FANCY YOURSELF A SCIENTIST, AND ALREADY WANT TO ACCOMPLISH SOMETHING THAT HAS BECOME OF CRITICAL IMPORTANCE.



NOT THAT I'M TRYING TO TALK YOU OUT OF THIS, BUT... YOU'RE A SEER.



I AM NOT A SCIENTIST. I AM AN OLD MAN WHO WAS DRAGGED OUT OF RETIREMENT TO HELP CLEAN UP A MESS.

WITH THIS MATTER OF MAGIC CHANGING SETTLED, IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I RETIRE ONCE MORE.



SPEAKING OF WHICH, OUR BUSINESS HAS CONCLUDED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.

WAIT, WHA--



WHERE'D THEY GO?!

WHERE THEY FELL ASLEEP, NOW WAKING UP



WHY AM I STILL HERE?!

YOU WILL BE RETURNED TO A NATURAL SLEEP SOON, BUT IT HAS BEEN CONCLUDED THAT MAGIC CAN ONLY BENEFIT FROM YOU KNOWING THE TRUTH ABOUT YOUR FAMILY...



...AND THAT IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR YOUR HALF-SIBLING, TEDD, TO LEARN OF IT LATER.

**THE CURRENT SYSTEM HAS ENCHANTMENTS THAT END ON THEIR OWN AFTER A TIME IF NOT WANTED BY THE ENCHANTED.**

**ENCHANTMENT RESISTANCE IS NOT NEEDED TO END THEM. BUT MAKES THEM END FASTER.**

**Intended Enchantment Duration: 12 Hours**



**No Resistance:  
12 Hours**



**Resistance:  
<12 Hours**



**Likes the magic:  
 $\infty$**